

Awaiting the inevitable under desert clouds

UNDER leaden skies and the kind of driving rain more familiar in northern Europe, the Saudi people and the massive allied army in the desert were yesterday making final preparations for a war, which the sombre mood demonstrated that most now accept as inevitable.

After the third day of torrential storms close to the frontline with Kuwait and throughout the region, where fighting might soon break out, the weather rather than any eleventh hour hope of peace was seen as the only factor likely to delay an American-led assault.

European sources said that President Bush was now under increasing pressure to launch an attack as soon as possible after the midnight January 15 deadline which expires at 8am local time in Saudi Arabia tomorrow

By Philip Jacobson and Christopher Walker, covering the Gulf conflict from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and Richard Beeston, Times correspondent in Baghdad

morning, because of fears in Washington of the growth of an anti-war lobby and splits in the fragile 28-member coalition lined up against Iraq.

An American army medical officer who returned yesterday from a frontline position said that the rain was not causing much problem for tracked vehicles, but was providing growing difficulties for non-tracked trans-

port in the sand. Defence experts said that Saudi Arabia usually had around 10-15 days a year of torrential downpours, which were continuing late last night and slowing down supply vehicles on flooded tarmac roads in the desert. But that was unlikely to cause more than a minor delay in any strike against the 540,000 Iraqi troops.

The low cloud covering large areas of the region, where winter rains have come one month later than normal, is not considered likely to hinder aerial ability in what will be a microchip war in which targets can be singled out and attacked during the worst weather.

"For two days the dry desert sand soaked up the rain, but then it began lying on the surface and was doing that when I left the area nearest to the frontline positions," the American

officer explained. "There could be problems if it goes on for much longer without stopping."

The iron grey skies perfectly matched the mood among military men and civilians as final touches were put to preparations for a conflict, which it is widely agreed by Middle East observers could have unpredictable consequences across the Arab world.

"I had my doubts, but I am now convinced that Saddam will fight it out," said one grim-faced Saudi official, who also believed that the weather would cause only the briefest of delays to war. "The main problem now is what will happen if Israel is brought in."

The white-robed official, voicing concern now being voiced with mounting intensity inside America's three main Arab allies -

Continued on page 18, col 5

Gorbachev 'did not order Vilnius shootings'

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday broke more than 24 hours' silence over the killings in Lithuania, saying that he had known nothing of Saturday night's events in Vilnius until he received a telephone call on Sunday morning.

He told journalists at the Soviet parliament that tragic events like this happened everywhere in the world and he hoped the West would take a constructive attitude. "The president comes under enormous pressure," he said without further clarification.

The White House said yesterday it would probably call off next month's summit in Moscow because of the bloody repression. Washington is also to review economic aid to the Soviet Union pending clarification of who ordered the crackdown.

The US ambassador to Moscow protested "in the strongest possible terms" to the Soviet foreign ministry, while President Bush discussed the action with top advisers, and James Baker, the Secretary of State, was due to brief him immediately on his return from the Middle East and Europe.

At an emergency meeting in Brussels, European Community foreign ministers threatened to suspend a £300 million economic cooperation package agreed at last month's Rome summit. Emergency food aid would not be affected.

Nato reacted to the violence by saying that a continuing use of force would jeopardise arms control negotiations and affect every aspect of East-West relations. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, called on the Soviet authorities to return to dialogue and end military intervention.

In Moscow Boris Yeltsin, the Russian federation president, said the army action was only the first step in a powerful offensive against democracy. The Russian government remained vigilant against any attempts to undermine it, and was considering the creation of a separate Russian army to defend it.

Earlier in the day, the defence minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, told parliament that all army troops in Vilnius had been confined to barracks and the tanks had

been disarmed. Only people and parked vehicles, he said, prevented them from being withdrawn from the city altogether. Marshal Yazov was answering questions from deputies furious that Mr Gorbachev had not turned up to present comprehensive information about what had happened.

The interior minister, Boris Pugo, gave official casualties as 13 dead, including two soldiers, and 163 injured, 42

of whom were in hospital. One of the injured is since reported to have died. Mr Pugo said that violence had first broken out when interior ministry troops guarding the broadcasting station were attacked and fired on from inside the building. This is denied by the protesters.

Both ministers had been called upon to answer questions in a spontaneous debate on the situation in Lithuania which had erupted the moment the day's session opened. Neither offered much clarity about the chain of command involved in the

Continued on page 18, col 2

Photograph, page 3

On the brink of war as UN diplomacy fails

AS JAVIER Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, despondently concluded his mission last night, Iraq dealt a crushing blow to lingering hopes for peace when its parliament voted for war.

When he landed in New York, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said his trip had failed. "I have done what I had to do," he said. When asked if he had lost hope, he admitted: "In some ways, yes."

"You need two for tango. I wanted to dance but I didn't find any nice lady for dancing with," he said. The secretary-general added that President Saddam Hussein "did not express any desire" to withdraw from Kuwait.

Downing Street matched his gloomy assessment as it emerged that John Major and President Bush are about to allow military commanders to choose the moment to launch a strike against Baghdad.

Meanwhile, the American state department said that the Iraqi ambassador to Washington, Muhammad al-Mashat, had decided to leave the United States before the deadline, at 12 midnight New York time on Tuesday, for Iraqi troops to pull out of Kuwait.

The prime minister's talks with Señor Pérez de Cuéllar and in Paris with President Mitterrand strengthened the view among British ministers

From Richard Beeston in Baghdad and Philip Webster in London

JERUSALEM: Thousands of Jews prayed for peace yesterday at the Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem as the Israeli armed forces went on highest alert. Page 6

BOMBING: The war with Iraq is expected to begin with the heaviest allied bombing raids since the second world war. Page 6

PARIS: After a two-hour meeting with President Mitterrand, John Major accused Saddam Hussein of rejecting the UN peace mission in "an extremely unhelpful and unnecessary way". Page 7

WASHINGTON: James Baker returned from an eight-day tour confident of solidarity among America's allies. Page 7

that diplomatic attempts to end the occupation of Kuwait were at an end. Mr Major had a 20-minute telephone conversation with the secretary-general about his meeting with Saddam before leaving RAF Northolt for Paris. Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, tired and disappointed, said he had "nothing good" to convey to him. He had told Saddam: "You are sending me out empty-handed. What do you expect me to say about these talks?" The Iraqi leader had been "very serene" and almost fatalistic about war.

The UN chief told Mr Major he saw little point in other meetings, including the proposed initiative by the French. A Whitehall source described the tone of the conversation as "unmitigated gloom". The prime minister then flew to Paris for two hours of talks with Mitterrand. The impression given by the French president, who had earlier met Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, was that he did not see any avenues left, according to British government sources. There were no indications about the previously mentioned French initiative.

Mr Major and Mitterrand voiced regret at the rebuff given to Señor Pérez de Cuéllar. They were said to have agreed that Saddam had no chance in any conflict and were at a loss to understand what he hoped to gain from it. They agreed there should be

no question of postponing the deadline. Whitehall sources repeated last night that, once the deadline was passed, Saddam was at risk of attack "sooner rather than later".

Political authorisation for a strike against Iraq could be taken by a meeting of the war cabinet as early as tomorrow, sources made clear. Once the deadline has passed, Mr Bush, Mr Major and the other allied leaders will hold consultations. British government sources explained that, once the political decision to go to war had been taken, the military commanders would be given flexibility as to when to launch the first attacks.

Mr Major invited Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, to Downing Street last night to discuss the latest developments. Tomorrow, he will meet Edward Heath, the former prime minister, who has strenuously argued for a diplomatic solution, for talks on the Gulf and Europe.

The diplomatic outlook was equally downbeat at the European Community, which has all but abandoned hope of averting war after concluding unanimously yesterday that any separate European peace mission to Baghdad would end in humiliating failure. Foreign ministers decided after hearing Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's gloomy account that Saddam had no interest in dialogue. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said after curtailing his visit to the Middle East that "there was no argument, no dissent". Any visit to Baghdad by representatives from a "troika" of EC states - Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands - would be doomed. The Brussels meeting effectively buried Europe's hopes of succeeding where America and the UN had failed.

All the Twelve, including France, apparently vowed not to launch their own separate peace missions to the Iraqi capital.

The EC is still leaving the window open for dialogue via Arab states. A statement called on "Arab countries and organisations" to exert maximum pressure on Iraq and make Saddam realize it is within his interests to withdraw. But Britain is at odds with several community partners over the prospect of mediation by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation.

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Oil price, page 19



Failed mission: a disappointed and tired Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in Paris yesterday

BA halts flights to risky area

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways yesterday decided to suspend all flights to Tel Aviv and Dhahran as the aviation industry braced itself for a virtual shutdown in the event of war.

Lord Brabazon, the aviation minister, issued a warning that airlines would be prevented from flying to any destination where it was believed there could be a security risk. The Foreign Office listed eight places where British visitors should take special precautions: Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Iran, Turkey, Karachi in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Kaduna in Nigeria.

Airlines and tour operators throughout Europe began emergency talks amid indications that holidaymakers and businessmen alike would stop flying immediately if war broke out and predictions that oil prices could soar to \$60 a barrel from \$26 now.

Tour operators are trying to persuade holidaymakers to come home early from Egypt and resorts in the eastern Mediterranean. Thomson Holidays cancelled a flight to Luxor in Egypt hours before it was to have left last night.

Petrol rationing plans prepared

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government is ready if necessary to introduce contingency measures - eventually including petrol rationing - to deal with any oil shortages resulting from a Gulf war.

Other available measures include cutting speed limits on roads and adapting cars to use less petrol. There would be moves to increase the shared use of cars.

The government is anxious to prevent panic over oil supplies and believes that with oil stocks at a record level

since 1982, there is only a slight prospect of petrol restrictions. So far, planning has been largely carried out within the Department of Energy.

The department is working closely with the oil industry emergency committee, representing 13 oil companies who account for 90 percent of British oil trade, and with the Paris-based International Energy Agency, which last week agreed contingency measures for all the western economies.

The agency estimates that at the beginning of January oil stocks in countries within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development amounted to about 470 million tonnes (3600 million barrels), 16 million tonnes higher than a year earlier. In Britain, stocks at November 1, the latest available figure, were 17.3 million tonnes, equivalent to an 85-day supply.

Because the winter has so far been relatively mild, and the peak period of oil demand has now passed, Whitehall believes that with stocks high, the chances of avoiding any restrictions are good.

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Clarke ruling on geography

Geography teaching in the national curriculum must rely on facts and not opinions, ruled Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary.

Lessons, particularly on the environment, should concentrate more on knowledge and understanding of aspects of geography and not on the discussion of attitudes and values. Page 2

Debut captain



Rob Saunders, the London Irish scrum half, will make his debut for Ireland as captain. He is one of five newcomers in the team to face France on February 2. Page 34

Oil price rise

Oil prices soared above \$32 a barrel in volatile trading and bulk petrol prices climbed \$34 a tonne, putting pressure on oil companies to increase forecourt prices. Page 19

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Navy's bulldog mood on waters of the Gulf

By Jamie Dettmer, Times correspondent, on board HMS London, in the Gulf

Commodore Craig undertook a dangerous mission navigating his type 21 frigate through Falkland Sound, despite the risk of mines. He is clearly pleased that several other senior officers in the Gulf naval group also served in the Falklands, because of the lessons he believes the navy learned during that conflict.

"We have marched on eight years. We have newer ships, newer systems and newer capabilities," he said.

The crew of HMS London, a type 22 frigate, was preparing for war yesterday. The ship went through two air defence exercises, the enemy being

represented by a couple of Jaguar fighter bombers from the RAF's 6 Squadron.

As the aircraft approached, furious and low in their simulated attack on the ship, their course was tracked by men in London's sophisticated operations room. "What we are doing is testing and refining our reaction time" said one of the ship's principal warfare officers.

"Now we are at this stage, with a war imminent, we have to concentrate on air defence exercises."

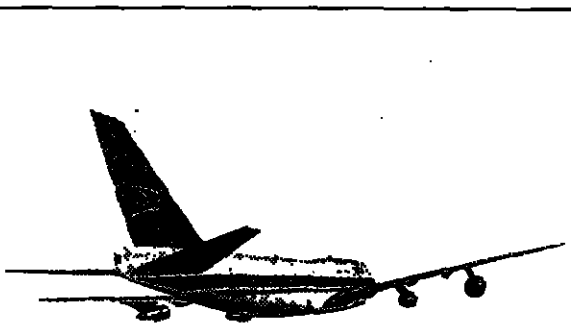
In the gloom of overcast weather, the Jaguars fired off rockets at a target towed behind the ship. The crack of rocket fire shattered the quiet. On the horizon, the distant shapes of other vessels in the allied naval force could be made out, including the vast bulk of Comfort, an American hospital ship. All four British warships have

been intensifying their war preparations while continuing to enforce the United Nations trade embargo on Iraq.

The allied naval force has mounted more than 7,000 challenges to merchant vessels in the Gulf, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Oman, and more than 750 have been boarded by search parties.

Senior officers on British warships have endeavoured to keep their ratings informed of the political events which will determine where a war is fought. Twice a day, the crew of London listened to a brief talk over the ship's tannoy system. "Mr Bush has been given the go-ahead" the ship's first lieutenant, Rob Farmer, said last night.

"We believe it all depends on the UN secretary general. We have to wait and see."



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Record £920,000 crash award to surgeon's family

By DAVID YOUNG

RECORD £920,000 agreed damages were awarded in the High Court yesterday to the family of a leading consultant surgeon killed in a road accident.

The award is the highest made to a widow and the largest in the British courts over a fatality.

Mr Justice Macpherson awarded the sum by consent to the 46-year-old widow and three children of Gregory Houghton, an internationally distinguished specialist in spinal surgery who was attached to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford.

Mr Houghton, whose annual salary was £115,000 and was expected to reach £200,000 within a few years, died aged 44 in September 1988 the day after being knocked off his bicycle on the Banbury Road in Oxford. He

had run a private practice but also devoted much of his time to the national health service at Nuffield orthopaedic centre, Oxford and John Radcliffe hospital, Oxford.

It was expected that he would have received a merit award for his work.

Yesterday's award was against Jamie Smart, who was jailed for 21 months after the accident for causing death by driving his car recklessly. Mr Smart, of Dene Road, Headington, Oxford, was also disqualified from driving for five years. He admitted liability.

Colin Mackay, counsel for Mr Smart, said that the solicitors and insurers involved held Mr Houghton in the highest regard and were "happy to offer the sum".

Mr Houghton's widow Helena, of Upland Park Road,

Summertown, Oxford, will receive £866,000; their son Christoff, aged nine, will get £39,000; their son Mark, aged 21, £3,000 and daughter Maguelonne, aged 18, £12,000.

The previous highest award to a widow was £582,891 awarded in June 1988 at the High Court in London to Frederika Miles, aged 49, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, over the death of her husband Gordon, a businessman, in a collision with an articulated lorry.

Mr Justice Macpherson, who had commented during the hearing that Mr Houghton had been a highly distinguished doctor, asked his widow if she had had all the advice she needed and said: "I wish you well in the future."

Mrs Houghton, who was also awarded legal costs, was too upset to speak after the hearing, but her son Mark said: "We are delighted. This has been going on for more than two years. All I can say is that we are very pleased."

The family's solicitor, Ian Walker, said: "Mrs Houghton is obviously still distressed about her husband's death. However, she is very relieved that the litigation process has been resolved and that she and her children can now rebuild their lives, guaranteed the financial security they would have had if Mr Houghton had not been killed."

"That is the idea of compensation, that it should put people back in the position they would have been in if their relative had not died. Mr Houghton was a very distinguished surgeon with a very high earning potential."

Michael Brent, QC, the family's counsel, said that Mark had left university after studying for an engineering degree. His sister Maguelonne has had "setbacks with her health as a result of her father's death" but now hoped to go to university.

The £39,000 awarded to Christoff, the youngest child, who is at private school, will be invested for him.



Mrs Houghton leaving after yesterday's hearing

Smoking threat to asthmatics

A BAN on smoking in public places would combat the rising death toll from asthma, doctors said yesterday (Thomson Prentice writes).

Four out of five asthmatics are seriously harmed by passive smoking, according to a national survey of 50,000 sufferers. The illness affects up to three million people in Britain, and causes 2,000 deaths and about 100,000 hospital admissions a year.

Asthma is becoming more common in Britain and costs about £800 million a year in health care and lost productivity, Action Asthma, a medical pressure group which organised the survey, said. The group was launching a campaign to increase awareness of asthma treatments among doctors and patients.

Dr Martin Partridge, a consultant physician at Whipps Cross hospital, east London, said that a majority of the deaths from the disease could be prevented if sufferers sought earlier treatment and doctors provided better care.

Dr Sean Hilton, a spokesman for Action Asthma, said: "Eighty per cent of the people we surveyed reported that smoky atmospheres worsened their condition terribly. This is strong evidence of the harm smoking has on asthmatics. Bans have been imposed in other countries and we would welcome similar action here."

Palumbo puts case for demolition

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE demolition of listed buildings should sometimes be allowed in favour of redevelopment, the House of Lords was told yesterday as Peter Palumbo's proposal to replace eight listed Victorian buildings in the City of London approached a final decision after years of planning controversy.

Sir Frank Layfield, QC, for Mr Palumbo's companies, No1 Poultry and City Acre Property Investment Trust, was opening the appeal against a Court of Appeal decision last March. Save Britain's Heritage had gone to the Court of Appeal after the then environment secretary, Nicholas Ridley, had approved the redevelopment.

The proposed scheme, designed by James Stirling, was described by the government

enquiry inspector as possibly a "masterpiece" and by the Prince of Wales as resembling "a 1930s wireless".

The appeal judges ruled that Mr Ridley had failed to give adequate reasons for his "radical departure" from stated government policy not to allow demolition of listed buildings unless every effort had been made to preserve them. The buildings in dispute stand on a triangular site opposite the Bank of England at the Mappin & Webb corner, and were acknowledged by the inspector to be one of the best group of commercial Victorian buildings in the City.

Sir Frank yesterday said Mr Ridley and his inspector had a duty to pay regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the appearance of the conservation area as a whole and of retaining listed buildings of historic or architectural interest. They must have regard to government policy, which was that there should be a presumption in favour of retaining listed buildings.

But the government's policy statement was to the effect that the destruction of listed buildings would "seldom" be necessary and that most mean demolition was being envisaged as sometimes necessary in favour of redevelopment, he argued.

The hearing continues today.



Palumbo fighting on to develop City site

TV soaps dish up the bad food guide

By ROBIN YOUNG

CHARACTERS in Australian soap operas are setting British television audiences a bad example by eating and drinking themselves sick, a nutritionist says in *The Food Magazine*, published today by the Food Commission.

Heather Morton, head of nutrition and social health at the University of South Australia, analysed 45 hours of three Australian television series popular with young British audiences, *Neighbours*, *Home and Away* and *A Country Practice*. Though their characters are seen as epitomes of clean, modern, fresh-faced living, Dr Morton says, they spend a quarter of their time eating and drinking.

They also purvey misinformation about food and drink, and insidiously promote brands such as Coca-Cola

and Fosters lager. Each 20 or 25-minute episode is likely to have six scenes featuring eating and drinking, and the poor quality snacks the characters consume outnumber healthy ones by 25 per cent.

Dr Morton says, however, that though the unhealthy snack foods were the sort to make young people overweight and give them high cholesterol levels many healthy snacks she saw were "well-filled sandwiches, high in fibre and complex carbohydrate".

She also found that the characters often talked over a main meal served at a table and that more than a third of the meals were breakfasts. That was encouraging because it helped to counter the modern tendency of children to miss breakfast. The main meals were generally nutritionally

sound, with breakfasts, lunches and dinners twice as likely to be rated healthy as unhealthy.

The producers were complimented on their efforts to show salads, vegetables and fruit juices on lunch and dinner tables. On the other hand, when the characters talked about food and drink more than half their statements were rubbish, Dr Morton found. All the food-related remarks she analysed concerned body-image and slimming. All were all made by women and only 43 per cent were scientifically correct.

Dr Morton also criticises attitudes to alcohol. Though the programmes never showed young people drinking alcohol, "generally alcohol drinking was presented as normal and non-problematic".



Colourful lobby: members of the Lithuanian Association of Great Britain delivering a petition to the House of Commons yesterday urging the government to withdraw aid to the Soviet Union. They earlier delivered a copy to 10 Downing Street. Report, page 1. Background, page 8

Nurse is cleared of killing baby girl

A NURSE was cleared yesterday of killing a baby girl in her care by wrongly connecting an oxygen tube to the child's arm, causing it to "blow up like a balloon".

The prosecution offered no further evidence at the Central Criminal Court after medical witnesses disclosed that the tube was connected to the arm of Jemma Fenton, aged 11 months, during resuscitation attempts after nurse Florence McKenley had left the child's hospital cubicle, and that Jemma's bronchial condition could have caused her to swell.

Judge Capstick directed the jury to return a not guilty verdict on the manslaughter charge, which Mrs McKenley, aged 48, of Navestock Crescent, Woodford, northeast London, had denied. Jemma's parents, Keith and Michelle Fenton, of Turnage Road, Barking, left without comment.

Mrs McKenley, who worked at Oldchurch hospital, Romford, Essex, for 21 years, said she was pleased and relieved, but criticised the hospital for summarily dismissing her.

After a reunion holiday with her husband in Jamaica, which she has not been able to visit for the past year as police held her passport, she plans, with the support of the Royal College of Nursing, to appeal against her dismissal. She also expressed her deepest sympathy to the family of the baby.

Before she left the court Mrs McKenley issued a statement through her lawyers which said: "From the very start I told the police that I did not make the connection supplying intravenous oxygen. This prosecution has caused me 11 months of the most intense worry." She said her worry was intensified when Oldchurch hospital summarily dismissed her last December "when I was unable to attend any disciplinary proceedings because I would have been in breach of the conditions of my bail."

David Paget, for the prosecution, had alleged that Mrs McKenley wrongly connected an oxygen tube to a drip feed causing Jemma to become "grossly bloated".

Judge Capstick ordered defence costs to be paid from central funds and that the £130 Mrs McKenley had contributed to her legal aid should be returned to her.

No one was available for comment last night at the Barking, Havering and Brentwood health authority.

Major in sex abuse gets nine years

By DAVID YOUNG

AN army major, who became an MBE last year for his work in the prison service, was jailed for nine years yesterday for indecency offences against five boys.

William Humphries, of Stanway, Essex, admitted 14 charges of indecent assault against boys as young as six.

Humphries, who will start his prison sentence on his 53rd birthday today, was serving at the military corrective training centre at Colchester.

Miss Patricia Lynch, for the prosecution, told Chelmsford Crown Court, Essex: "On each occasion he was a close family friend of the victim's parents, and almost every time he was serving with the father in the army. He got to know them as family friends and was viewed by the parents as a trustworthy uncle."

The offences were committed in the boys' own homes, at the bachelor major's three-bedroom semi or in his car. They took place between January 1977 and August last year when Humphries was questioned by police. Judge

Greenwood told him: "These children were children of friends, people who trusted you. Unknown to anyone, you were behaving in this outrageous and wicked way."

In his spare time Humphries ran a Venture Scout troop at West Bergholt, Colchester. District commissioner Roger Smith said: "We never had a single complaint about him. I can't believe he pursued his private activities in the scouting movement because we would have heard something."

Tax adviser jailed for cheating clients

A FORMER tax officer who became a financial adviser was yesterday jailed for four-and-a-half years after cheating clients out of £473,000.

Ian Cowen, aged 42, of Otterburn Street, Kighley, West Yorkshire, used the money to finance his luxury lifestyle, paying for foreign holidays and the school fees of his two sons, Leeds crown court was told.

Cowen, a former Tory councillor in Bradford, West Yorkshire, stole the money from 14 clients between 1986 and 1988. One customer, Betty Hird, aged 62, of

Bradford, had been forced to take a job as a cleaner after losing £20,000, the court was told.

Judge Kolbert said: "This was perhaps the saddest case of all. Not even a widow's sole means of support moved you to dealing with her honestly."

The judge said that Cowen, who ran Brooklyn Financial Services in Kighley, had set up a fraudulent empire and had systematically abused customers. Cowen changed his pleas to guilty on seven charges of theft and one of fraudulent trading on the fourth day of the hearing having earlier admitted failing to keep proper records. He was declared bankrupt in 1988.

Malcolm Swift, QC, for the defence, said: "It is a classic case of a man who uses his clients' money in the belief that he will be able to repay it but then finds that the situation escalates out of control."

Michael Shorrocks, QC, for the prosecution, said that Cowen, who was previously a VAT officer, had belonged to Fimbra, the financial world's self-regulating watchdog.

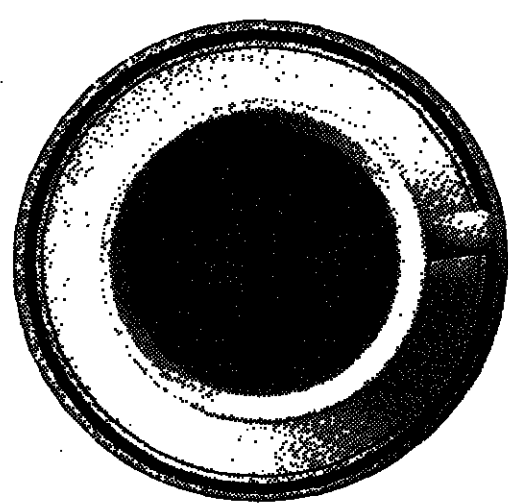
McDonald's libel win

THE McDonald's fast food chain yesterday won an apology in the High Court for libels in a leaflet which attacked the quality of its food and accused the company of causing starvation in the Third World, destroying rainforests with lethal poisons, lying over the use of recycled paper and contributing to an ecological catastrophe.

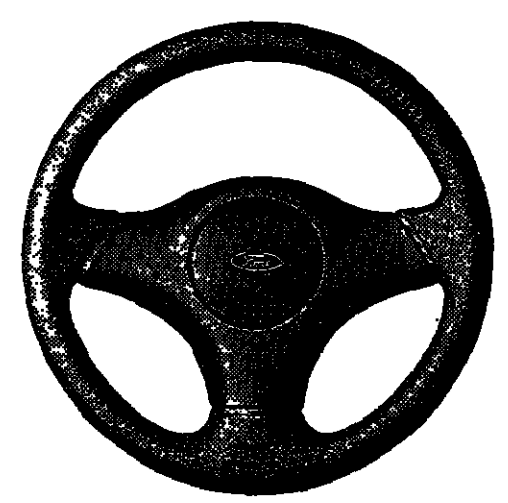
McDonald's sued three members of an organisation called Greenpeace (London), which the court was told had no connection with the international Greenpeace organisation.

Paul Gravett, Andrew Clarke and Jonathan O'Farrell apologised, withdrew the allegations and promised not to repeat them.

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New horizons: Walston surveying an oilseed rape field. "It is clearly crazy for the taxpayer to subsidise me to produce wheat that nobody wants"

Farmer foresees life without subsidies

OLIVER Walston, who farms 3,000 acres at Thriplow in Cambridgeshire, has seen the future and it looks a bit like Kansas. He is not yet sure whether it will work here but believes that British farmers will have little choice but to find out the hard way. "In a few years, we shall all be operating without subsidies," he predicts.

A visit to Kansas and Nebraska, heart of the US wheat belt, has convinced him that the European Community will not be able to resist the pressure for big cuts in farm subsidies when the stalled Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) resumes. Officials are due to meet in Geneva tomorrow to try to restart the talks.

Mr Walston, who grows oilseed rape, peas and beans in addition to wheat, his main crop, went to the US prepared to defend the common agricultural policy. "After talking to farmers there, I simply gave up because it became increasingly evident that the form of farm support we operate in the EC is intellectually untenable. We must accept that Clayton Yentler [the US agriculture secretary] and the Cairns group [of 14 food-exporting countries that back the US in the GATT talks] will prevail over the EC. Of that, I have no doubt at all. What is more, I think they should, because it is clearly crazy for the British taxpayer

With talks on tariffs and trade due to resume in Geneva tomorrow, Michael Hornsby meets a British farmer who has studied the American experience and favours the end of price support

to subsidise me to produce wheat that nobody wants.

"What I say then, however, is that other things have got to change too. I will have to employ fewer men and pay a lower rent. Whoever grows wheat on this farm in the future, whether it is an individual or a corporation, is going to have to use exactly the same methods as they do in Kansas.

"That is what the government and the public, which wants small farms as well as cheap food and less money spent on agriculture, are reluctant to recognise. If I cannot compete, my 3,000 acres are not going to be divided up into 10 picturesque, 300-acre farms with hedgerows. They are going to be taken over by a Kansas-type operator farming 6,000 acres. That does not have to mean more intensive farming. Kansas farmers use only a third of the fertiliser and a quarter of the chemicals we use." In America, Mr Walston found that the Kansas farmer gets £75 a tonne for his milling wheat compared with £125 for his East Anglian counterpart. Both are subsidised. "If we are

to stand any chance at all of competing in an unsubsidised world market, we are going to have to bring our costs down to somewhere near the Kansas farmer's costs."

That, he admits, is a tall, perhaps impossible, order. The average value of land in Kansas is £500 an acre, as against £1,200 in East Anglia. Rent is about £20 an acre, against £45 to £50 here. "The Kansas farmer thinks nothing of farming 3,000 acres with the help of his son and three students at harvest time. So his wages bill is low."

Mr Walston employs six men, which is already low by European standards for a farm of his size. He could cut his staff further by using outside contractors and by spending "much more time in the tractor seat myself, as my Kansas opposite number does."

Far more difficult is how to bring down rent and mortgage and interest repayments. Mr Walston rejects suggestions that he is a macho farmer with low overheads whose scale of operation enables him to entertain big ideas about competing

without subsidies that are pure fantasy for smaller farmers.

He rents two-thirds of his acreage and is "mortgaged up to the hilt on the rest". He may be a big farmer, he says, but he is still a high-cost one. "I reckon the value of land would have to come down from £1,200 an acre to about £700 before we would stand a hope in hell of competing with the Americans."

"Yet if I asked my landlord to lower his rent, or my bank manager to re-finance my mortgage, they would laugh. The crunch question is how many farmers will have to go bust before they change their minds."

Mr Walston sees little hope in suggestions that the money now spent on supporting farmers' prices could be switched to "green" subsidies conditional on managing the land in environmentally-friendly ways. "I simply do not see how such subsidies could ever cover more than a fraction of what we now get from a supported price. Last summer, for example, I got £275 a tonne for my oilseed rape, of which £200 came from Brussels." He is equally unimpressed by talk in Brussels of "revolutionary" reforms of the CAP, with price subsidies being changed into "direct income aids" for smaller farmers. Such assistance would by-pass British farmers, he believes.

Lords revolt wrecks planned sick pay change

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Lords effectively wrecked the government's proposed change to statutory sick pay yesterday in a revolt by an alliance of business interests and Labour and Liberal Democrat peers.

By 132 votes to 80, a majority against the government of 52, the peers rallied behind a cross-party amendment to the Statutory Sick Pay bill that results in the government's losing the estimated £100 million in savings the change would have made possible.

The legislation cut the state's contribution to sick pay from 100 per cent to 80 per cent, leaving employers to find the remaining 20 per cent. But, as part of the social security package, employers would make some gains through changes in national insurance contributions.

The successful amendment, tabled by the Tory peers Lord Mottistone, an adviser to the CBI, and Lord Stanley of Alderley, who speaks for the National Farmers' Union, with Lord Russell, a Liberal Democrat, and the Labour peer Lord Carter, makes the change cost-neutral by cutting the state's contribution from 100 per cent to 91 per cent.

Further discussions are expected between rebels and social security ministers to try to save the legislation. But the CBI has called repeatedly for the bill to be withdrawn because it could add an estimated £1 billion to company

costs. The government had hoped to defuse the Lords' rebellion by promising to exempt small firms from the legislation.

Earlier in the debate, Lord Henley, the junior social security minister, promised the concession after complaints from peers of all parties that the government was adding to the industry's costs and administration during a recession.

Lord Henley refused appeals to withdraw the bill, but he agreed that the legislation could hurt small firms. He accepted the spirit of a Tory backbench amendment exempting small firms employing five or fewer workers from the legislation and said that his own amendment would be designed to have the same effect.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, the former Conservative cabinet minister, said that if ever there was a moment not to impose further handicaps on employers it was now. The government was unwise to introduce the bill when it was telling industry to keep costs down.

"I am very disappointed that, after the second reading, the government did not give further thought to whether it was wise to go through with the measure as a whole. That ill feeling has been aggravated by the lack of consultation."

Lord Stanley suggested the legislation should apply only to firms employing 20 or more workers.

Aid for USSR in peril, MPs told

By PETER MULLIGAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

FURTHER use of force by the Soviet army in Lithuania could jeopardise "very greatly" Western aid to the Soviet Union, Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, told MPs yesterday.

She said that there was a danger of the Soviet Union's going back into its Stalinist shell and she hoped that President Gorbachev would stop the "abominable behaviour". Mrs Chalker refused a Labour MP's request for an assurance that the government would honour EC promises to give emergency food aid to the Russians. The issue was being discussed in Brussels, she said.

David Owen, the independent social democrat, called for the instant stopping of credits and high technology transfers to the Soviet Union.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is to make a Commons statement about the Lithuanian situation when he returns from the Brussels talks later this week. Requests by MPs for an emergency debate were rejected by John MacGregor, the leader of the House, who said it would be more appropriate for Mr Hurd to make a statement first.

Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Castle Point, said that a promise of a



Chalker: refused to give food aid pledge

statement was not sufficient if it was not accompanied by a promise of a debate. The people of the three Baltic states, he said, had been oppressed for a generation.

Dafydd Elis Thomas, leader of Plaid Cymru, said that many MPs said were concerned about the unholy agreement between the great powers and the collaboration between sections of the Bush government and the Soviet Union whereby support for the Americans' position in the Gulf was traded off against lack of intervention to defend human rights in Lithuania.

Baltic turmoil, page 8
Leading article, page 11

Comedian withdraws libel action

Tom O'Connor the comedian withdrew a libel action in the High Court yesterday over allegations about his private life.

The case was expected to last five to six weeks and concerned four articles in the *Sunday Mirror*, four in *The People* and six in the *Daily Mirror* published in October and November 1988. Mr O'Connor, aged 51, of south Ascot, Berkshire, is married with four children.

Murder charges

Paul Ryland, aged 31, unemployed, was remanded in custody at Birmingham yesterday, accused of murdering Rosemary Kelley, aged 38, and her daughter Claire, aged five, at their home in Bartley Green, Birmingham.

Arms remand

A Sinn Féin councillor in the Irish Republic, was accused at Dublin's anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court yesterday of arms and explosives charges. Owen Macartain Smyth, aged 38, was remanded on bail.

In good voice

The Welsh National Opera had its most successful year last year, with 180,000 people, and box office receipts were over £2,300,000 - £600,000 more than in 1989.

Waters will

Elsie Waters, who created the Gert and Daisy comedy act with her sister Doris, has left £212,707. Miss Waters, of Steyning, West Sussex, died last June aged 95.

Cricket death

An inquest opens in Norwich today on Daniel Brown, aged 13, of Hevingham, who died after he was hit by a cricket ball during a coaching session.

Saunders ill

Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, has been taken to hospital from Ford open prison, West Sussex, for a hernia operation.

Break-in death

A woman aged 76 collapsed and died after calling police to an attempted break-in at her home in Torquay, Devon.

Funds sought to set up first European environment library

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE's first specialised and comprehensive library of the environment may be set up in London, supplying a need that is increasingly felt in politics, industry, academia and in the environment movement.

Library facilities have failed to keep pace with the explosion of interest in environmental issues over the last two years and the literature now being produced, according to a new London university think-tank, the Global Environment Research Centre, which wants

to fund the library by raising £2 million from industry. The centre, attached to Imperial College, feels that although the university libraries and other institutions offer expertise in specialised fields, such as water engineering or climatology, there is no dedicated central library where research is brought together.

It says there is an increasing failure to track and supply "grey literature" - conference declarations, government reports, European Community directives and other docu-

ments which are sometimes ephemeral and often difficult to obtain, but are of growing importance to policy-makers, researchers and industrialists.

John Gordon, the centre's policy director, said: "There is no good comprehensive environment library in Europe, so far as we know. If, for example, you wanted to examine quickly but in detail what are the general environmental problems in the Gulf, there is no single place you could go to."

Mr Gordon, a former diplomat who was head of the nuclear energy department of the Foreign Office, said that the centre hoped to base the library on the present library of Imperial College's Centre for Environmental Technology. "It would be the best environment library in Britain or Europe, and potentially in the world. It would be accessible to all serious research workers, to industry, government, the media and the pressure groups. It would be the biggest single contribution Britain could make to a better understanding of global environmental problems and policy-making."

Britain's most extensive collection of environmental information is held by the Science Reference and Information Service of the British Library, which has just set up an environmental information service by telephone. It has access to half a million books and 50,000 journal titles.

Maximum fines for littering are being increased from £400 to £1,000 and councils will be given powers to appoint litter wardens who can impose fixed penalties of £10 on anyone dropping litter.

The Crown has no immunity under the act enabling councils to prosecute government departments if buildings and other facilities generate litter.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said: "From the very start we have argued that this new law would lead to a rash of frivolous complaints. Some people will complain about anything, but the cost of dealing with their complaints will fall on all poll-tax payers."

"Local authorities will fall victim to troublemakers and people with a grievance against the council."

Mr Trippier said that the

'Modified' flies may fight pests

THE humble fruit fly, of the species *drosophila*, is to be given a star role in an experiment that could lead to the release of genetically-modified insects into the environment as biological agents to keep down pests or weeds (Michael Hornsby writes).

The experiment is the first of its kind to be attempted in Britain. Researchers at Leeds university, where the three-year £260,000 project was launched last Friday by David Trippier, the environment minister, are hoping to obtain information considered crucial to the success of work in an area that still verges on science fiction.

Genetically-modified flies will be released into nylon-mesh cages containing populations of flies that have not been tampered with. "We want to find out what effect they will have on the flies already there and whether the genetically-modified part of the introduced fly escapes into the others," Bryan Shorrocks, reader in population biology at Leeds, said.

David Coates, lecturer in applied molecular biology, who will be running the project with Dr Shorrocks, said that the introduced flies would contain an extra genetic sequence that conferred resistance to an antibiotic called Kanamycin, so making it easy to test whether the extra gene was present.

"The first question we want to look at is whether the introduced flies will be able to invade the population of wild-type flies or whether they will just die out because the normal flies grow faster, lay more eggs and so on."

"Then we want to find out whether, if you cross a modified fly with a wild-type fly, you will end up with a line of fly that looks exactly like the wild type but contains the extra genetic sequence."

Dr Coates said the longer-term aim was to insert a gene that reduced the ability of a fly to survive in the wild. "In this way you could release a genetically-modified fly - and this is still very much science fiction - in the knowledge that it would only be around for, say, three to six months, just long enough to do the job for which it was designed, such as pest or weed control."



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ISRAEL

Forces go on highest alert as thousands turn to prayer

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

THOUSANDS of Jews prayed for peace yesterday at the Wailing Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem as the Israeli armed forces went on "the highest alert" in case Iraq launched a pre-emptive strike before the United Nations deadline passes for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"Our pilots are sitting in their cockpits 24 hours a day," a military source said. "We have to be prepared for the possibility that the Iraqis will fire missiles at Israel before the UN deadline."

The Israeli calculation is that President Saddam Hussein may strike at Israel to undermine the US-Arab coalition and disrupt allied plans. The Americans have reportedly urged Israel to refrain from responding to an Iraqi strike.

JORDAN

Angry marchers denounce the West

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN AMMAN

GLOOM about the consequences of war spilled over into rage on the streets of Amman yesterday as Jordanians and large numbers of Palestinians denounced the allied intervention in the Gulf and reaffirmed their support for President Saddam Hussein.

About 10,000 people joined what was billed as the "march of anger" through the centre of the city, carrying placards of Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the Iraqi president and burning American flags. At the international stadium, speakers predicted that American soldiers would be "cut to pieces" by Iraqi forces. Slogans adorning the stadium, sharing space with advertisements for Saudi Arabian airlines and Western consumer goods, said American and allied interests would be destroyed in a war. "We shall burn the Americans with Arab oil," one said.

Ali Amer, leader of the Jordanian Democracy Party, said: "The message today is that all the Jordanian people and the Arab people are united against the American war and the Zionist war. We do not want this conflict, but if American troops and Israel begin to attack, then we are with Iraq."

A Palestinian in his forties, who works as an accountant and has lived in Jordan since 1966, predicted that even if America and its allies win on the battlefield, they would lose in the Middle East in the long run.

Among the more militant of the Palestinian factions, there was open support for war and calls for chemical strikes by Baghdad against Israel. According to one local observer, "they are just fed up with the status quo and the whole system in the Arab world. I think the Palestinians and all revolutionary organisations in the Arab world would like this to fall, and apparently war is the best way for it to do so."

The march followed predictions by senior Jordanian government officials that war would bring with it an inevitable upsurge of anti-Western feeling, and the evacuation over the weekend and yesterday of many Western diplomats, including half the staff at the British embassy.

The government, meanwhile, has been broadcasting instructions and advice to people on what to do in case of bombing raids.

The leading military commentator, Zeev Schiff, said in the newspaper, *Haaretz*, yesterday that in agreeing not to carry out a pre-emptive strike against Iraqi missile batteries Israel had taken upon itself "to absorb a first strike". But this did not mean that Israel was prepared to hand over responsibility for the defence of the country and its citizens to an outside power such as America.

He quoted Israeli security sources as saying that Israel wanted to keep out of the war, as Washington had requested, and was aware that an attack by Saddam on Israel would have the object of involving Israel in a war with Jordan and thus broadening the conflict. "But what will finally determine our decision will be the scope of damage and losses in Israel and the question of whether the Iraqis use chemical weapons."

The mass-circulation daily *Yediot Aharonot* carried pictures of Israeli fighters ready for action on its front page. It noted that Israel had an interest in keeping the US-Arab coalition intact, but added that "not all authorities in Israel are completely convinced that the US can stand by a military option it proposes."

Some Israelis, the papers said, believed the American forces lacked combat experience and could not achieve the mission of defeating Iraq or eliminating Iraqi missile sites "with the same reliability that Israel can". Equally, the paper said, American forces may be too busy dealing with a direct threat to them, in which case "the US commitment to Israel will take second place".

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and Moshe Arens, the defence minister, held secret talks on Sunday with Lawrence Eagleburger, the US Deputy Secretary of State, in Tel Aviv. After the talks, Israeli reports said that Mr Shamir and Mr Arens had reiterated that Israel still reserved the right to retaliate against an Iraqi attack, while promising not to launch a pre-emptive strike.

Diplomats said that 1,500 Britons had headed Foreign Office advice over the past two days and left Israel on special British Airways flights. The British ambassador in Tel Aviv, Mark Elliot, was said by embassy staff to be at his desk. But British embassy families have either left for the UK or taken refuge in the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

Iraq has modified ScudB missiles capable of hitting Israel and has said that Tel Aviv would be its first target if war broke out in the Gulf. Israel radio said that Israel had deployed two batteries of advanced Patriot air defence missiles and had developed "new systems" for intercepting Iraqi air attacks.

The view from Israel, page 10

18 die on bus

Dipolog, Philippines — At least 18 people were killed and seven others were missing after the bus they were travelling in plunged into a river in the southern Philippines. Rescuers believe the seven passengers still missing may have been carried away by strong currents. The driver escaped. (AP)

Beach passion

Paris — More French men and women would prefer to have sex on the beach than in bed, according to a poll in a women's magazine. Thirty-one per cent said they thought it would be most erotic to make love on a beach, while 30 per cent said they preferred sex in bed or "outdoors in nature". (AP)

Sri Lankan women plead for help

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT IN AMMAN

AMONG those likely to become the forgotten victims of a war to liberate Kuwait is an estimated 6,000 Sri Lankan women still in the Iraqi-occupied city, many of them held there against their will.

Sri Lankan refugees here say about 1,300 Sri Lankan domestic helps and cleaners are being held by Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait and are being prevented from leaving. In many cases, the women, mostly in their twenties, were trapped by soldiers who took over homes abandoned by Kuwaitis at the time of the invasion in August.

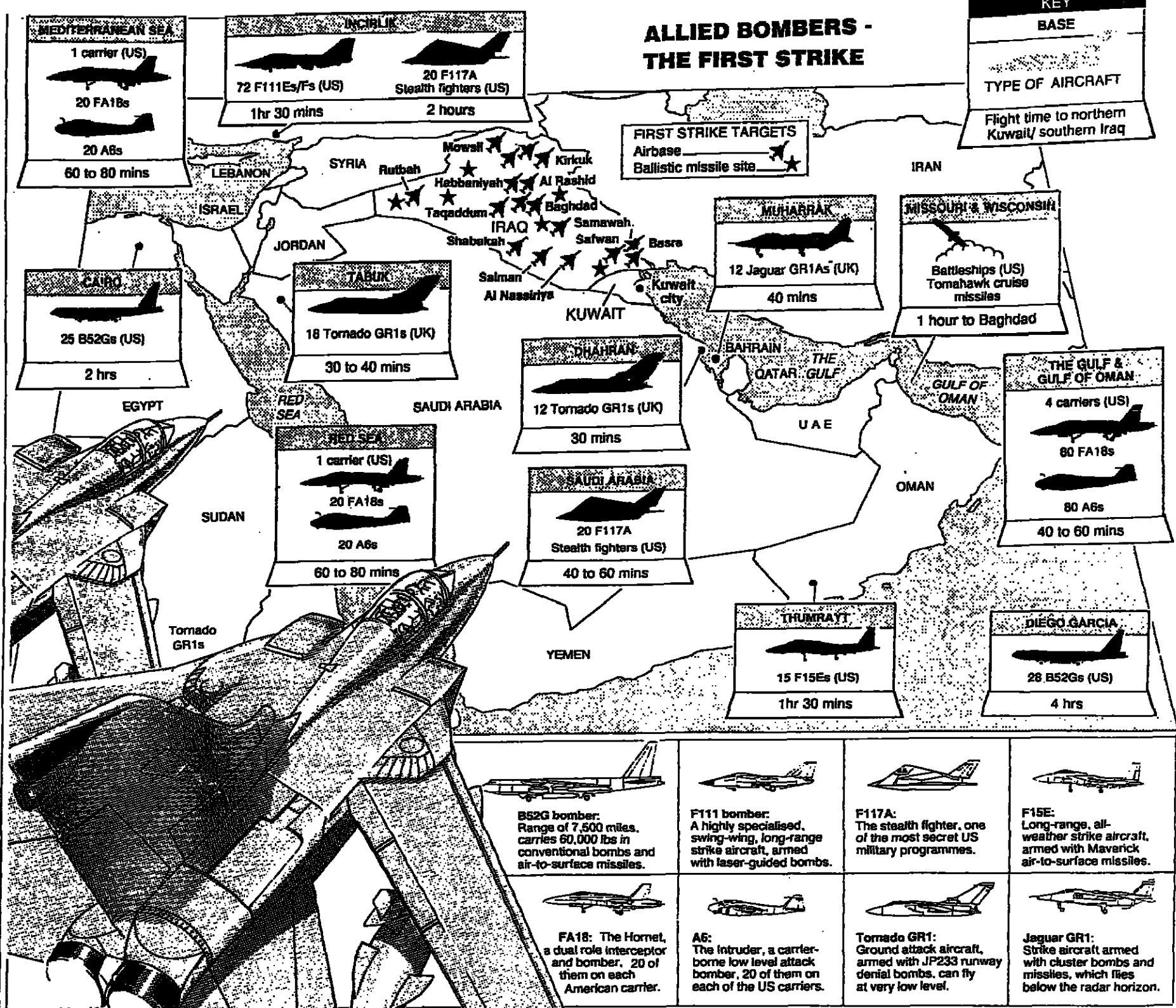
A minister attached to the British embassy in Amman, who has helped some of the estimated 10,000 Sri Lankans who fled to Jordan at the start of the confrontation, is attempting to raise the plight of the women with officials in Baghdad to try to rescue them before war begins.

"It is late in the day but nevertheless, whatever happens, it ought to be known that these

people are being held against their will," said the Rev William Taylor. "That is not only a basic human right, it is a duty to their relatives." He recently travelled to Colombo, where he met relatives of the women, and returned to Amman at the weekend with a folder full of letters pleading for help, some smuggled out of Kuwait, others from families in Sri Lanka asking him to intervene.

The apparent failure of the government in Colombo to act on behalf of its citizens in Kuwait has angered refugees here. Melody Pillai, aged 36, who worked as a telephone operator in Kuwait, helped organise the evacuation of about 500 fellow Sri Lankans in August.

"The Sri Lankan government could have done wonders like the Indian government by sending ships to take everyone out," she said. "This is why I am very angry with my country because these are girls who have been molested in



MILITARY STRATEGY

Stealth fighter jet to lead heaviest bombing raid since second world war

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE war with Iraq will begin with the heaviest allied bombing raids since the second world war. Most of the American and British strike aircraft, fuelled and ready to go, are just an average 30 minutes flying time from their targets.

Only the American B52G bombers, based at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, flying at high altitude and at a cruising speed of 500mph, will take about four hours to cover the 2,200-mile journey to central Iraq.

The pinpoint timing of the allied air attacks has been one of the most complex planning operations yet devised. For years, Nato strategists developed a masterplan for launching fighters against a Warsaw Pact offensive in Europe, a key aspect of which was to create a "deconfliction regime". With thousands of friendly and hostile fighters in the air, squadrons were allocated set altitudes, routes and areas to avoid mid-air collisions and to reduce the risk of dogfights between planes on the same side.

The same considerations have been taken into account for the planned air assaults on Iraqi targets, with Awac early warning aircraft monitoring from above to control air traffic.

The first aircraft to be sent into action will be the US Air Force's F117A stealth fighter. There are at least 40 stealth fighters deployed in the region, 20 of them believed to be at the American air base at Incirlik in Turkey. Although their first combat mission, during the American invasion of Panama in 1989, was not a glittering success, Lieutenant-General Charles Horner, commander of the US Air Force element of Operation Desert Shield, must be convinced they can do the job.

The subsonic F117As, although slower than the American F111 and British Tornado GR1 bombers and travelling at about 500mph from their Saudi bases, will probably take up to 45 minutes to reach their designated targets. Their design is unconventional, but the stealth fighter's flying characteristics are similar to other fighter aircraft with a modern fly-by-wire flight control system. They are armed with laser-guided bombs.

Flying "unseen" towards Iraq, hidden from the enemy under cover of darkness and equipped with a radar-evading superstructure, their primary targets will be Iraqi radar stations and air defence batteries.

Following behind the F117As, the B52Gs will fly towards Iraq from Diego Garcia and possibly also from Cairo, with RAF Tornado GR1s flying from Dhahran and Tabuk, RAF Jaguar GR1As

from Muharrak in Bahrain; Italian Tornado GR1s from Abu Dhabi; Canadian CF18s from Doha, Qatar; French Mirage 2000s from Hufuf, Saudi Arabia; Saudi Tornado GR1s from Dhahran; American F15Es from Thumrayt in Oman; and the large number of American F111 bombers, based in Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

The B52Gs, which have a range of 7,500 miles, will have a dual role. Armed with 60,000lb of conventional bombs and air-to-surface missiles each, the planes are likely to be used to destroy key military installations in Iraq, as well as to "carpet bomb" Iraqi troop positions in Kuwait, prior to a ground offensive.

The B52 Stratofortresses will probably leave Diego Garcia base late at night in order to arrive over Iraq at dawn. Although they have a low-altitude bombing capability, it is more likely their bombs will

be released at high altitude. In Vietnam, they flew high in bombing raids because of the Vietcong's expertise with light anti-aircraft missile systems.

Iraq has high-altitude Sam2 surface-to-air missile systems, which will threaten the B52s. But, as Mark Lambert, editor of *Jane's All the World's Aircraft*, said: "It's a pretty pedestrian system and not too difficult to jam."

The planes may also be able to turn around and attack more Iraqi targets, now there is an agreement between Washington and Ankara for the B52s to refuel in Turkey.

The F111s and Tornado GR1s at Saudi bases are all about 30 minutes of their targets. The Tornado GR1 squadron at Dhahran is 276 miles from northern Kuwait. On an attacking run, the RAF strike aircraft will be travelling at over 700mph. The slower Jaguars will not be far behind.

Oil workers brave 'hyped' conflict and return to highly paid jobs

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITISH oil worker Steve Wilson believes he can survive a war in Saudi Arabia, even though his home on the Gulf coast is just a few hundred miles from the border with Kuwait.

He has left his wife and three children behind in Liverpool, and recognises that many people in Britain would regard him as "bunkers" for electing to return to his job in the oilfields.

Mr Wilson, like dozens of other British oilmen going back after Christmas, thinks the likely impact of a Gulf war has been grossly "hyped" by the media. He remains determined that what he believes will be a conflict lasting no more than seven days at most will not interfere with his ability to pay his mortgage and put his children through private schools.

He believes there will be a "cushion" between the outbreak of hostilities and escalation to full-scale war, which will give his Saudi-owned company the chance to get him out. Failing that, he and a colleague have organised their own private boat, waiting with reserves of water and fuel, its engine carefully maintained, ready to take them eastwards down the Gulf in an attempt to reach safety.

Most of the oilmen who have returned to the Gulf since Christmas admit they have had no formal training about what to do in the event of a chemical or bacteriological strike by Iraq or even conventional bombing. None have been issued with gas masks or suits to protect themselves against chemical agents, and none has been offered a bonus for staying in their jobs.

Life in Egypt is continuing as usual and a sense of calm exists in Cairo, which is unruffled by gas

mask distribution. "... Egyptians feel they are a long way away. The war is not going to wash up on Egypt's shores," said a Western diplomat. Embassies are telling their citizens everything should be "business as usual".

"We're telling people not to change their plans, to keep in touch with the events, but that there's no reason to be concerned," said James Sharp, press attaché of the British Embassy in Cairo.

Roger Cornish, general manager of British Petroleum, said: "We are just taking very low-level precautions with response to our offices here... We believe our staff is safe here."

For Egyptians themselves, however, the emergency is affecting

more than 1.5 million workers in either Iraq or Kuwait, and their relatives. Many Egyptians have been allegedly forced to serve in the Iraqi army, and may have to fight their countrymen if war breaks out. Egypt has more than 36,000 troops stationed in the Gulf, the largest Arab force.

But while shreds of optimism remain in Egypt, Kuwait City has become a capital haunted by war, with Iraq reinforcing troops there, digging trenches, blocking bridges and putting hospitals on alert, travellers from the occupied kingdom said yesterday in Amman, Jordan.

One returning Jordanian said Iraqi troops were preventing doctors and electrical workers from leaving.

British troops may have their own spy satellite

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH forces in the Gulf could be gleaming vital intelligence on Iraqi war plans from their own spy satellite.

Don Kerr, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, said they had evidence that Zircron, the proposed intelligence gathering satellite, may have been launched over the Middle East in August last year.

Andy Wilson, editor of *Jane's Intelligence Space Directory*, said the claim may help to explain a mystery surrounding the last SkyNet 4 communications satellite launch. "Zircron, which was buried in the SkyNet programme, was supposed to take a slot 53 degrees

East. The last SkyNet was supposed to be located one degree west, but actually went to 53 degrees east — the old Zircron slot."

If the British satellite is in coded it will be eavesdropping on coded communications and listening to telephone calls in Iraq and Kuwait.

Five or more of these so-called "signal" (signals/intelligence) satellites have been deployed by the United States in geostationary orbits around 21,500 miles above the equator. The secrecy surrounding their launch and the deliberately confusing names given to the programmes means types and numbers are uncertain.

RAF men killed in Oman jet crash

THE pilot and navigator of an RAF Tornado were killed when their ground attack fighter plunged into the desert in Oman during a low-flying exercise on Sunday (Michael Evans writes).

The death of Flight Lieutenant Kieran Duffy, aged 24, from Staffordshire, the pilot, and Flight Lieutenant Norman Dent, 27, from Washington, in Tyne and Wear, the navigator, brought to seven the number of British servicemen killed in the Gulf since Britain's Operation Granby was launched. Both men were single, but Flight Lieutenant Dent was due to marry in September.

An investigation has been ordered into the crash of the Tornado GR1, one of at least 12 based at Dhahran in Saudi Arabia.

Plea rejected

Geneva — The World Health Organisation yesterday rejected an attempt by Iraq to raise the issue of drugs and medical supplies it said it was deprived of because of United Nations sanctions. Baghdad told the body's health agency executive board that the UN trade embargo imposed in October caused great suffering. (Reuters)

Aircraft toll at 27

Dhahran — An F16A "Fighting Falcon" jet fighter crashed on Sunday in central Saudi Arabia, but the pilot ejected safely, and all 18 troops and crew aboard a CH-47B Chinook helicopter suffered minor injuries when it was destroyed by fire on Friday, taking the total of aircraft lost in the allied Gulf deployment to 27, the US armed forces said yesterday. (Reuters)

Diplomat flees

Copenhagen — Mogens Pedersen, a Danish diplomat held by Iraqi authorities managed to flee last Thursday, driving past several checkpoints without drawing notice, the daily *Berlingske Tidende* reported yesterday. Mr Pedersen had been held in Baghdad since mid-August and was the only Dane to have been refused an exit visa by Iraq. (AFP)

Defectors held

Ankara — Turkish police yesterday detained two Iraqi army defectors who crossed the mountainous Iraqi border secretly and were travelling by bus to Istanbul, the Anatolian news agency said. (Reuters)

Cargo ship adrift

Bahrain — A United States government cargo ship, the 9,296-tonne SS Cape Charles, which is supporting the military armada ranged against Iraq in the Gulf yesterday drifted in the waterway without power, shipping sources said. A warning to shipping was issued earlier in the day after a mine was reported about 250 miles north of Bahrain. (Reuters)

هكذا من لاجل



Talking on: John Major with President Mitterrand at the Elysée Palace yesterday; centre, Jacques Poos, the Luxembourg foreign minister, with Javier Pérez de Cuéllar meeting Yuri Dubinin, the Soviet ambassador, in Paris; and Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, with Gerry Collins, his Irish counterpart, at an EC meeting in Brussels

BRITAIN

Major takes chance to stress unity with France

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

JOHN MAJOR yesterday accused President Saddam Hussein of rejecting the peace mission of Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, in "an extremely unhelpful and unnecessary way".

"It is clear, I think, that time is running out for Iraq to make a clear and decisive move and to leave Kuwait," the prime minister said after a two-hour meeting with President Mitterrand at the Elysée Palace that extended over a working lunch.

"We still hope very much that she will do so," he said.

Mr Major emphasised that allied unity was strong and said he had nothing to report about any possible last-minute peace initiative.

ive by the French government. "I think there is no distinction between the British position, the French position and the position of the allies generally on the determination that Iraq shall leave Kuwait and gain absolutely nothing from her aggression."

"There is complete unity of view between myself and the (French) president on that particular issue," Mr Major said.

He said Iraq had had plenty of opportunity to withdraw, but had declined to use these chances.

"We both regret that the secretary-general's mission to Iraq seems to have come to such a disappointing end. It is our view that Saddam Hussein has missed an opportunity in refusing the pleas made to him by the secretary-general and has done so in an extremely unhelpful and unnecessary way. The secretary-general, of course, will be reporting to the security council later on this evening but, none the less, it is an opportunity missed that we regret."

"It is clear to us the security council resolutions need to be reinforced and reinforced in full, and that Iraq should gain absolutely nothing from her aggression over the last few months."

These views, Mr Major said were "held most forcefully" by both himself and Mitterrand.

Asked whether any further peace initiatives could be expected, he said: "It is difficult to see quite what else can be done."

The prime minister said a European Community foreign ministers' meeting was under way in Brussels, and that the United Nations Security Council was to meet in New York, but evidently held little prospect for any last-minute solution.

Asked about the prospects for an independent French initiative to break the deadlock, Mr Major said he had not particularly discussed such an idea with President Mitterrand. "I've nothing to say upon that," Mr Major said the United Nations deadline was "perfectly clear".

LONDON

Labour revolt will not split ranks

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR MPs protested yesterday that the Commons was being denied the opportunity in today's debate on the Gulf, the last before the United Nations deadline expires, to vote on whether Britain should go to war.

Left-wing MPs, angry that the party leadership had refused a request to let the parliamentary party discuss the conflict before the debate, decided yesterday to stage an unofficial party meeting this morning.

However, in spite of renewed signs of tension among the Opposition as MPs returned to Westminster after the Christmas recess, it appeared that the expected Labour revolt tonight would be contained to between 40 and 50 MPs. The leadership's refusal to advocate the early use of force, while making plain that it would back British troops as soon as they went into action, seems to have satisfied the shadow cabinet and most of the front bench.

John Major and Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, will open the debate. The prime minister wants the House to send a message to British troops that the Commons is united behind them.

Mr Major, who had talks in Paris with President Mitterrand yesterday, will place on record the detailed efforts made since the last debate in December to find a solution. Mr Kinnock's speech will be closely watched for any sign of wavering in the bipartisan approach to the confrontation.

In urging Labour MPs to vote in the same lobby as the government, he will make plain the party's support for the UN policy. Mr Kinnock will say that a peaceful solution achieved by sanctions would be the favoured outcome, but if that cannot be achieved force will have to be used.

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said yesterday that Labour would support military action even if it believed that sanctions and diplomacy were not given enough time to work. "If the only way to get Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait is by force, then force will have to be used," he told a news conference.

"There is still time, even after the deadline," he said. "I hope it may be possible for others to persuade Saddam that it is in his interests to leave peacefully."

ITALY

Open line to Arafat in hunt for solution

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN ROME

ONE of Europe's last-ditch efforts to find a peaceful solution in the Gulf is what the Italian foreign ministry called an "open channel" of communication with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. In agreement with EC partners, Italy's foreign minister, Gianni De Michelis, telephoned Yasser Arafat in Baghdad over the weekend and asked the PLO leader to make a direct appeal to President Saddam Hussein to "withdraw from Kuwait on the basis of the UN resolution".

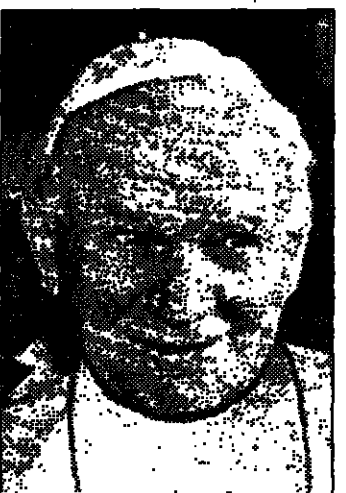
Officials at the Italian foreign ministry last night met the PLO representative in Rome, Nemer Hammad, in a further effort to reinforce the appeal to Mr Arafat. Mr Hammad has said the PLO is all for a peaceful solution to the confrontation, but "a peace based on justice", not "a peace which would make Israel master of the Middle East. As yet, there is no reply from Mr Arafat."

Meanwhile, the Pope made a heartfelt and unusually explicit appeal for peace in his weekly midday appearance yesterday. "I call on Iraq to carry out a gesture of peace which would bring it only honour in the context of history," he said.

The Pope also appealed to Iraq's neighbouring countries to organise a peace conference to help resolve "all the problems of peaceful cohabitation in the Middle East". Today the papal peace appeal will be distributed to Vatican nunciatures and delegations throughout the world.

"France will fight," he said. The French have led Europe's search for a final diplomatic solution to the Gulf conflict, "but if the balloon goes up, the French will be there". Saudi Arabia has given the United States permission to begin military operations from its territory. The only action it requires from President Bush now is notification of his final decision to go to war, a decision that is expected very soon.

The outstanding diplomatic concern in Washington is Israel's continued insistence on its right to retaliate if attacked by Iraq, rather than allow the United States to respond on its behalf. Mr Baker discussed the issue with all the Arab leaders he met and most offered a limited recognition of Israel's right to defend itself. The exception, however, was President Assad of Syria, who sees his



The Pope: an appeal to Iraq for some 'gesture of peace'

UNITED STATES

Baker returns home with allied backing for war

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the Secretary of State, returned to Washington from an eight-day tour of Europe and the Middle East yesterday, having secured the commitment of all America's main coalition allies to a war with Iraq. Once the United Nations deadline has passed at midnight tonight (New York time) the timing of any hostilities would be determined by President Bush.

"I think there's total solidarity among the coalition," Mr Baker said during his final stop in Canada. "At the completion of this trip I am very satisfied that the coalition is fully prepared politically, economically and militarily to deal with all possible alternatives as we approach midnight, January 15."

Mr Baker said that hopes of a peaceful solution were deteriorating. He condemned Iraq's rejection of the eleventh-hour UN mission to Baghdad by Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the secretary-general, as "one more act of defiance of the rest of the world, one more indication of Saddam Hussein's callous disregard of the well-being of the Iraqi people". As the clock ticked on, the only hope of averting war lay with Baghdad.

Syria was the only nation with ground forces in Saudi Arabia which indicated to Mr Baker that it would not use them offensively against Iraq, although it would continue to deploy troops in a defensive role. "No other nation has balked," a senior official, who travelled with Mr Baker on his tour of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Syria and Canada, told reporters.

"There was no argument, no dissent," said Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, after cutting short his visit to the Middle East. Any EC visit to Baghdad would be doomed.

The Twelve issued a bleak statement listing Saddam's persistent rejection of EC compromises, including a peace conference on the Middle East and a guarantee of immunity from attack if it withdrew. The meeting buried Europe's hopes of succeeding where America and the UN had failed, but Mr Hurd refused to say war was now inevitable. "It is conceivable that at the last minute Saddam may concede to the argument that every aspect of self-interest pushes him, and withdraw from Kuwait."

Asked on Sunday to respond to the millions of Americans opposed to military conflict, Mr Bush said: "We've got to do what we have to do." But Vietnam taught officials that the spread of an anti-war movement undermines public support for a presidential decision to do battle.

Even before a shot has been fired in the Gulf, Americans are split roughly 60:40 in their backing for the use of force. Unless a war is swift and decisive, the peace message is likely to sway the faint of heart. Members of Congress have made clear they gave Mr Bush the benefit of the doubt when they authorised him to use force but would stand by him only if a war was short and victorious.

The cries for peace have not yet swelled to the proportions of the Vietnam era. But the quiet build-up of anti-war efforts has grown to include a cross-section of American society, including key religious denominations and nine leading trade unions

GERMANY

Bundestag sends plea for pull-out to Saddam

FROM IAN MURRAY
IN BONN

ALL parties in the German parliament unanimously called on President Saddam Hussein to pull his troops out of Kuwait, in order to avoid what the chancellor, Helmut Kohl, predicted would be the worst military conflict since the second world war.

A special session of the Bundestag yesterday heard the chancellor place all the blame on Saddam for the danger of war. "The pre-conditions for a peaceful solution are straightforward and clear-cut," he said. "The sovereignty of Kuwait must be reinstated. That is, and remains, the demand of the community of nations to the president of Iraq."

He went on: "If sense does not finally prevail in Baghdad, and we still hope it will, we must expect one of the toughest military conflicts since the end of the second world war."

"So far the Iraqi leadership has thrown all warnings to the wind. It is apparently not ready to go back on its breach of the law and to pull back from its occupation and recognise Kuwait. Even today it is not too late. Saddam Hussein holds the key to war and peace in his hand."

Herr Kohl said that although Germany did not have troops on the ground, it stood ready to defend the same rights and justice which were the basis of freedom. While dismissing linkage with the Palestinian issue, he said there should be a Middle East conference immediately the conflict was over. Rich Gulf states should take a leading role in promoting the development of the region.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Twelve bury hope of averting a conflict

FROM PETER GÜLFORD IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community all but abandoned hope of averting war in the Gulf after concluding unanimously yesterday that any separate European peace mission to Baghdad would end in humiliating failure.

EC foreign ministers concluded unanimously that President Saddam Hussein had no interest in dialogue whatever after hearing a gloomy account of Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general. They chose instead to leave any last-minute peace initiative in the hands of the UN Security Council, which met in New York last night.

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CALLS FOR PEACE

Protest marchers line up against president's decision to do battle

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE peace movement in America, fragmented and halting five months ago, has blossomed after the failure of diplomacy to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Last weekend, as Congress authorised President Bush to wage war against Iraq after hours of often emotive debate, a couple of hundred anti-war protesters gathered at Capitol Hill to voice their dissent. "No blood for oil" read banners waved atop a model of George Bush wielding a US flag on a tank. On the ground lay a bodybag labelled "Killed in Action", its stuffing designed to resemble human remains.

The demonstrators were a mix of families and young people, both black and white. But a sign, harking back to the Democratic Party's chief criticism of Mr Bush in the 1988 presidential campaign, rallied them: "Sorry we called you a wimp, George." For many opposed to the use of force in the Gulf, Congress's vote was tantamount to a declaration of war

before today's United Nations deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal. In response, an estimated 12,000 to 15,000 people marched through the centre of Portland, Oregon, in one of the biggest peace demonstrations since the Gulf conflict began last August.

Farther down the west coast, generally slower to react to political events than the east but more vocal in its liberalism, anti-war protests drew 4,000 on to the streets of Los Angeles. Yesterday thousands of protesters planned to stage a "funeral procession" across San Francisco's Golden Gate bridge, while peace groups around the country prepared for candlelight vigils and all-night prayers to coincide with the midnight deadline, including a march from Washington's interdenominational cathedral to the White House.

So far the voices of the peace protesters are little more than a dark cloud over the Bush administration's preparations for war.

Asked on Sunday to respond to the millions of Americans opposed to military conflict, Mr Bush said: "We've got to do what we have to do." But Vietnam taught officials that the spread of an anti-war movement undermines public support for a presidential decision to do battle.

Even before a shot has been fired in the Gulf, Americans are split roughly 60:40 in their backing for the use of force. Unless a war is swift and decisive, the peace message is likely to sway the faint of heart. Members of Congress have made clear they gave Mr Bush the benefit of the doubt when they authorised him to use force but would stand by him only if a war was short and victorious.

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LITHUANIA AND LATVIA

Tanks at the ready as Latvians are ordered to obey Kremlin law

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SOVIET tanks and paratroops were poised last night to take over the Latvian capital of Riga after the commander of Moscow's forces in the Baltic, demanding that the rebel republic submit to Soviet power, said he intended to disarm all Latvians.

Colonel-General Fyodor Kuzmin insisted that local interior ministry and customs forces be disarmed, and abruptly ended a conciliation meeting, called by Anatolij Gorbunovs, the Latvian president, by declaring that Soviet law must be honoured and tens of thousands of Soviet servicemen must be respected.

The local pro-Moscow Communist party also demanded that the government resign or face a repeat of the events in Lithuania, in which at least 14 people died and 140 were wounded when troops attacked the main television and radio tower in the capital of Vilnius.

Meanwhile Soviet troops seized a Vilnius radio transmitter yes-

terday in apparent violation of a 24-hour truce. Witnesses said about two dozen soldiers had ordered staff to leave the building. But Lithuanian radio and television transmissions continued in Kaunas, the republic's second city, and the Lithuanian news agency, Elta, reported local troops around the city had refused to carry out an order to take over there. The radio carried an address to the parliament by Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian president, suggesting the military was out of the Kremlin's control.

General Kuzmin told the meeting in Riga: "In the name of the many thousands of servicemen, I propose returning to the laws of the Soviet constitution and of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic." His face red with anger, the general added: "I propose confiscating all combat arms from the population, listing all owners of hunting rifles and taking control of the arms of the ministry of the interior and customs service."

"All servicemen will defend their rights. They will fight for their rights," he said.

Ojars Potreki, the ideological secretary of the Latvian communists, insisted that Riga "repel all laws not conforming with the Soviet constitution" — that is, Latvia's declaration of independence last spring. Otherwise, he told a rally in the city centre, "the national salvation committee will be ready to take over." A similarly named committee had called in Soviet troops in Vilnius.

General Kuzmin told the same rally that paratroops might be used and said: "I stress that not introducing paratroops into Latvia today is an effort by the military to resolve the situation."

The Latvian government's response yesterday was to park hundreds of heavy lorries, cranes and bulldozers in the street leading to parliament, and on bridges giving access to an island on which the Latvian television station is situated.

Thousands of Riga citizens guarded key city buildings and hundreds linked arms to form a human barricade outside the red-brick parliament building.

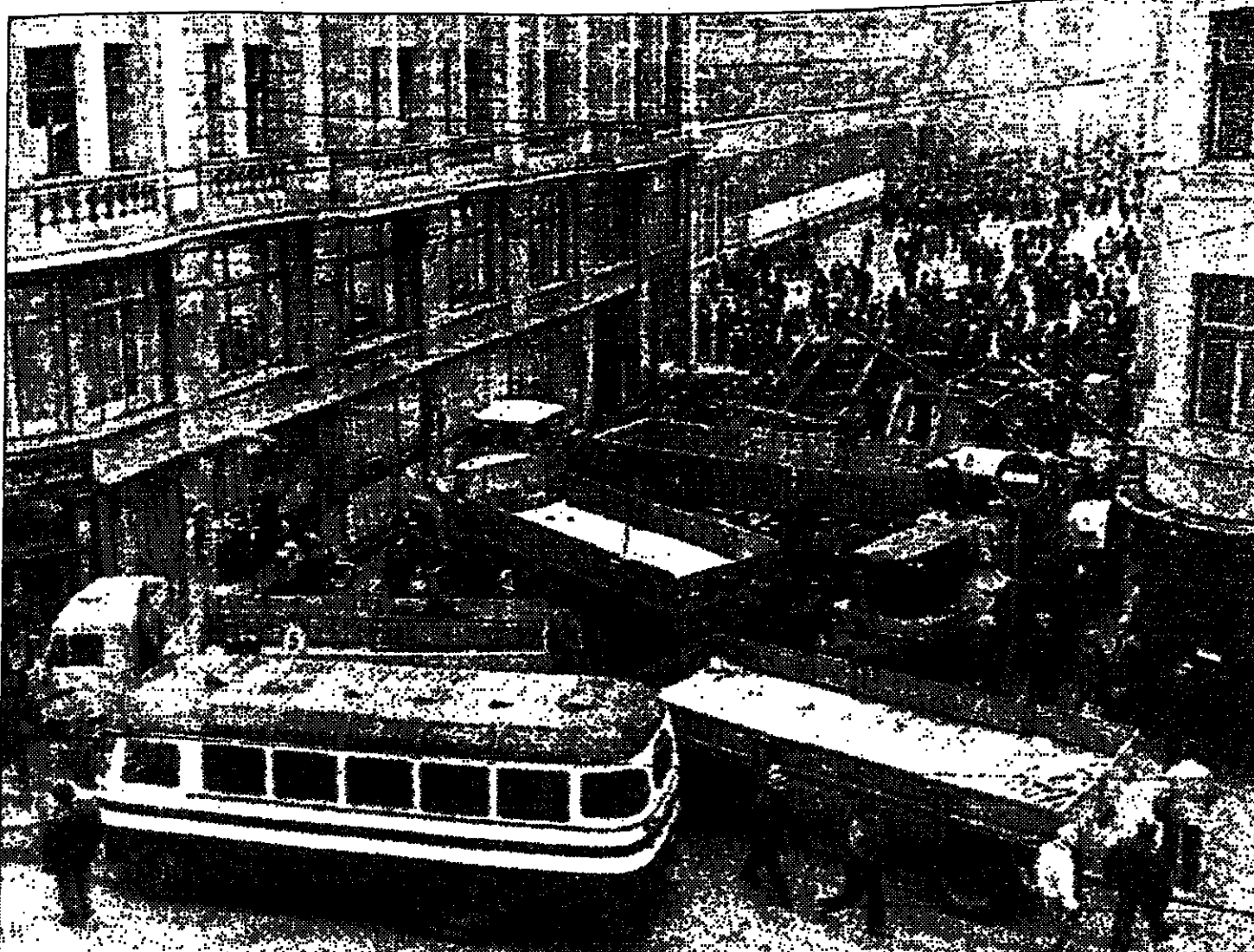
The parliament had resumed work early in the morning after a five-hour break. Late on Sunday members had passed a resolution offering the Lithuanian parliament facilities to work in Riga if necessary.

A huge explosion rocked the barracks of the city's interior ministry troop detachment just after midnight yesterday, breaking 300 windows but causing no injury, parliamentary officials said. The explosion was the latest in a long series which Latvian nationalists say are organised by pro-Moscow agitators.

The pro-Kremlin Interfront group has threatened to stage strikes today against power plants and bread factories in Riga unless the separatist government resigns.

A military delegation was in the Estonian capital of Tallinn yesterday, presumably with the same blunt message General Kuzmin had delivered in Riga.

Woodrow Wyatt, page 10
Leading article, page 11



Line of defence: a barricade set up by Latvians to protect the Riga telephone exchange

POLAND

Exiled government in waiting takes up residence in Warsaw

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE Lithuanian foreign minister, ready to take over as head of an exile government if Soviet troops crush his republic, paced the rooms in his small Warsaw hotel, clenching and unclenching his fists like a boxer in training.

"The current silence in Lithuania is ominous," says the minister, Algirdas Saudargas. "The biggest question now is: who is in power in the Kremlin?"

It is a question that cannot readily be answered in his headquarters, the Napoleon Inn, a respectable family place where Napoleon is reputed to have stayed on his way to conquer Russia. The restaurant has one of the best chefs in Warsaw, and it was patronised by Palestinian guerrillas on rest and recreation from Beirut with their Polish girlfriends. But that was in the communist era. Now, the manager is pleased that Free Lithuania is in residence.

But if there is one thing more depressing than a government in exile, it is an exiled government-in-waiting. News from Vilnius and Kaunas comes in through the tiny telephone exchange, or from mysterious messengers with manila envelopes.

Mr Saudargas spends most of his time commuting to the Polish television studios, where he has broadcast in Polish and Lithuanian to his people. Polish television can be received easily throughout Lithuania, but beyond emotional and slightly confused appeals for calm, and for spiritual resistance, the foreign minister is at something of a loss.

The hub of the situation, he believes, is in Moscow, not Vilnius. And Moscow is opaque. If Mr Gorbachev is losing power, and if it is true that he is not responsible for the shootings, then it means that the citizens of Lithuania have been the only ones to shed blood for his ideals — blood that has been spilled in front of the eyes of the world. Mr

Saudargas, in early middle age, with thinning hair and a creased suit, has been lobbying, above all, for Polish support for the Lithuanian cause.

He is adept at conveying diplomatic disappointment with the West, and with the new East European democracies. "May those countries which did not have the courage to recognise the Lithuanian government when it was operating normally, at a time of peace, find the courage now to recognise the fighting government," he told the Polish parliament.

By fighting against Lithuania, the Soviet authorities had in effect recognised the separate identity of Lithuania, he argued. Yet, the guerrillas on rest and recreation from Beirut with their Polish girlfriends. But that was in the communist era. Now, the manager is pleased that Free Lithuania is in residence.

President Lech Walesa, addressing the first session of the new Polish government, declared merely that "Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are fighting for their inalienable right to independence". In private, though, he has clearly made a policy choice, to support independence movements in the Soviet Union rather than the increasingly fragile leadership of Mr Gorbachev.

Both the Polish and the Czechoslovak governments made plain yesterday that they would accelerate their exit from the Warsaw Pact if the conflict continued in the Baltic republics.

Two Solidarity deputies, the journalist Adam Michnik and Krzysztof Dowgiallo, and Senator Andrzej Celinski met President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania, and offered political help.

Latest Polish reports from Vilnius said that the coffins of the dead were laid out yesterday afternoon in the sports stadium, and hundreds of Lithuanians filed past. Soviet troops barred entry to Lithuanian doctors and nurses who wanted to treat the wounded in the occupied buildings.

EUROPE

EC threat to halt Soviet aid

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community has threatened to suspend a vital economic co-operation package with the Soviet Union unless Moscow refrains from suppressing pro-independence demonstrators and attacking unarmed civilians in Lithuania and the other Baltic states.

The move marks the most serious decline in the Community's relationship with President Gorbachev. The joint action by the 12 foreign ministers falls short, however, of withdrawing emergency food supplies promised to the Soviet Union by Community leaders last month.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who cut short a visit to Turkey to hold an emergency meeting on Lithuania and the Gulf, said the Community had asked the Soviet authorities "to return to the path of dialogue and to end military intervention".

Officials say that suspension of

the co-operation deal, which is known to be among Mr Gorbachev's top priorities for rejuvenating Soviet economy, would deprive Moscow of about 400 million Ecu in "technical assistance".

A Community team is now in Moscow to analyse how to spend the money most effectively, and Moscow officials will fly to Brussels to confirm the deal on January 24. Yesterday's decision will, however, jeopardise all such moves. Despite the Community's concern that the decision should affect Moscow only at official level, Mr Hurd did not rule out curbs on food aid.

The Community will also investigate Moscow's claims that the military intervention stemmed from orders given locally and the severity of the Community's response may depend on this. The foreign secretary said he doubted that the repression would con-

tinue but said "we want to go beyond a mere warning with a definite statement of future action".

The foreign ministers appealed to Mr Gorbachev to preserve the hopes raised by the Charter of Paris, signed by 34 heads of government last November as a way of securing respect for the sovereignty of individual nations within the new European order.

The continued use of force in the Baltic republics would threaten the political stability of Europe and relations with the Soviet Union, Nato said yesterday. The Western alliance's statement, issued after three days of meetings, condemned the use of violence by the Soviet army to "undermine the democratically-elected authorities of Lithuania" as well as to intimidate Estonia and Latvia.

Parliament, page 5

GEORGIA

Well-armed republic refuses to be cowed

Tbilisi — All day long, anxious knots of men and women gathered in front of the government headquarters on Rustaveli boulevard to talk about the one thing that unites them all — the fear that Soviet tanks will soon rumble in and sweep them away, too.

"Zviad, we are with you," the banners that festooned the building said. From a third-floor window overlooking the crowd, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the leader of the determined separatist Georgian parliament, looked down.

"If they get the Baltics, they will come and get us," he said in his office as Soviet soldiers were opening fire in Vilnius on Saturday. "The situation has changed," he said.

Apparently, it is the military who are deciding things. But it is more difficult here than in the Baltics. There are arms in all of Tbilisi. In all the villages and areas around, the people are armed, maybe there are 100,000 or 200,000 weapons in the area. They are afraid of the population here."

Any attempt by Soviet troops to march in would almost certainly be met with violence. The people here resent the April 1989 killing of 20 Georgian nationalist demonstrators in front of the government building by Soviet troops.

Mr Gamsakhurdia, aged 51, has had a troubled life, like his troubled land, inhabited by five and a half million people from more than a dozen ethnic groups. At times, some of these ethnic minorities have been as militant about preserving their own identities and independence from Georgia, as the Georgians have been of preserving theirs from Moscow.

The bloody conflict now raging between Ossetians and Georgians in the republic, say Georgians, was inspired by Moscow to give the Soviet authorities a pretext to crush Georgian independence. Asked if he expected military measures to be taken against his republic, Mr Gamsakhurdia said: "They might be. But I do not want a war to start." (NYT)

MOSCOW

Parliament approves new prime minister

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

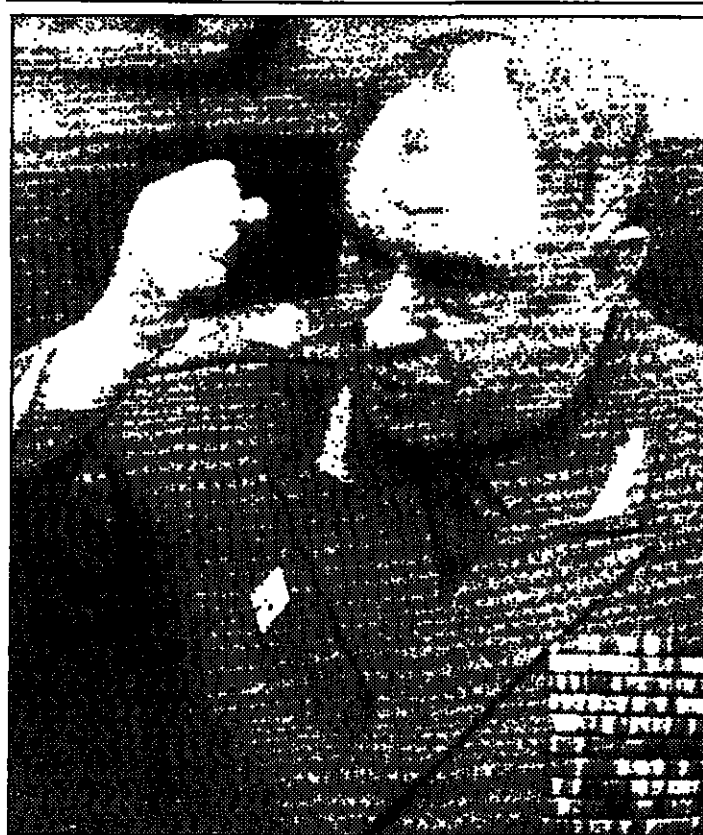
THE Soviet parliament yesterday confirmed Valentin Pavlov, the former finance minister, as the next prime minister. Four new deputy premiers were appointed, but there was no place for the former interior minister, Vadim Bakatin. Apart from Mr Pavlov, these first appointments to the new-style cabinet threaten to leave the government with a cast of uninspiring, state bureaucrats.

Mr Pavlov, a stocky figure with cropped hair, has been variously described as a competent economist or a bungler. Introducing him yesterday, Mr Gorbachev said he was "blessed with a profound, fundamental knowledge of economics and finance" and had "character". Mr Pavlov said he wanted "to ensure that the Soviet Union continued to be a great and independent power with which the whole world had to reckon and in which each individual felt free and

wanted to add to its wealth, power and dignity."

The four deputy ministers are Yuri Maslyukov, the current head of the state planning committee, Gosplan, Vitali Doguzhev from the ministry of general machine building, Vladimir Velichkov from the ministry of heavy machine building, and Nikolai Laverov, currently a deputy premier. Mr Gorbachev said that he had tried to suggest more adventurous names but the Council of the Federation, had overruled him.

● Sakharov protest: Yelena Bonner, the widow of Andrei Sakharov, said yesterday she had asked the Nobel prize committee to delete his name from the list of peace laureates, as she did not want it to appear near that of President Gorbachev, because of his role in the repression in Lithuania. (Reader)



Dmitri Yazov, the Soviet defence minister, declaring his ministry innocent of ordering force in Lithuania

BEST OF THE WORLD NEWS

Buthelezi deals blow to Mandela meeting

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE political minuet between Nelson Mandela and his black arch-rival, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, continued yesterday after the weekend bloodbath in which 35 people were shot dead by gunmen at an African National Congress funeral vigil in Sebokeng township, south of Johannesburg.

Prospects of a meeting between Chief Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu Inkatha movement, and Mr Mandela, the ANC deputy president, plunged with an uncompromising statement from the Zulu leader. He stated in Umlund, capital of the KwaZulu bantustan, that "a symbolic moment in time, with all its inherent implications, may have been lost. It was not made possible, and there was nothing either of us could do about it". At the same time, police said three more of the 50 people wounded in Sebokeng had died. Although the ANC has not directly accused Inkatha of mounting the attack, Sebokeng residents have implied its involvement.

Since last August, more than 1,000 people have been killed in townships in the war for political supremacy between the ANC and Inkatha. Chief Buthelezi's state-

ment followed a television interview with Thabo Mbeki, the ANC foreign affairs spokesman, in which he said a meeting with Mr Mandela depended on Chief Buthelezi's acceptance of a date and venue. Chief Buthelezi said this was a "blatant distortion of the truth". He said that in a recent telephone conversation Mr Mandela urged him to "be patient" about prospects for a meeting.



Buthelezi: backward step in political minuet with ANC

Ershad is barred from poll

From REUTER IN DHAKA

BANGLADESH election authorities yesterday refused five applications filed by former President Ershad to contest parliamentary elections on February 27.

The papers were cancelled because members of Mr Ershad's Jatiya party, who submitted the applications on his behalf, were absent when they were checked for approval, officials said.

"There were other irregularities too," one official said, but he gave no details. Mr Ershad had applied to fight five constituencies in his northern home district, Rangpur. He was removed from power on December 6 after a campaign by opposition parties, led by the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and handed over power to Shahabuddin Ahmed, the former chief justice.

Mr Ershad, a former general who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982, might appeal to the election commission to study his papers again, Jatiya leaders said yesterday. Candidates can stand in up to five constituencies in Bangladesh parliamentary elections, but can accept only one seat in the 300-member parliament.

Indian town aims to stamp out illiteracy

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

FOR all its poverty in one of the most densely populated regions in the world, Almora in northern India is about to stake a claim as the only town in the country with 100 per cent literacy.

A literacy drive was launched in Almora just over three months ago, in connection with International Literacy Year. The town is in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state as well as one of its poorest.

There are no accurate figures for the literacy rate in the region, but it is probably at least 80 per cent.

The local municipal board, the Scouts, Guides and other organisations co-operated in the scheme, which was called "Each one teach one". Illiterate men and women were encouraged to attend free lessons. The drive has been reviewed every two weeks by state officials. Almora says it will be ready to declare itself 100 per cent literate by the end of this month.

At least 500 million of India's population of 835 million are illiterate. The most literate state is Kerala, in the southwest, which lays a heavy emphasis on education. Women traditionally have had higher status in Kerala than almost anywhere else in the country.

News of Almora's literacy

breakthrough coincided with the publication yesterday of a study into a small locality in Madhya Pradesh, in central India, which found that women who were illiterate were more likely to marry earlier than those who could read and write.

The study, which was conducted by a former state education director, said that literacy was a deterrent, if not a disqualification, for marriage by girls. Much greater value was attached to marriage than to learning.

China seeks veto over Hong Kong

From AFP IN HONG KONG

CHINA wants immediate veto power over key Hong Kong affairs, rather than wait until 1997, a source said yesterday.

The demand was made clear during recent Sino-British talks on the British colony's controversial £10-billion airport and port plan. The source said China "set up" the meeting to make clear that its approval was vital to the project. Hong Kong could now drop the project or kowtow to the Chinese.

Cape Verde voters oust ruling party

From REUTER IN PRAIA

VOTERS have swept the ruling African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde from power in the first multi-party elections in Portuguese-speaking Africa, ending 15 years of one-party rule.

The party had ruled the arid archipelago off West Africa since Portugal pulled out in 1975.

Unofficial results yesterday gave the opposition Movement for Democracy 65 per cent of the votes in Sunday's elections, in which 160,000 voters chose a 79-seat parliament. Presidential elections are due on February 17.

Pedro Pires, the prime minister, conceded defeat on national radio, sending hundreds of opposition supporters on to the streets in celebration.

Carlos Veiga, aged 41, the opposition party's leader and a lawyer, pledged to dissolve the political police.

Cape Verde is the first of Portugal's five ex-colonies in Africa to abandon marxist dogma and one-party rule after the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

Sao Tome and Principe is to hold multi-party elections for parliament on Sunday and presidential elections on March 3.

Manila may take over US bases

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MANILA

NEGOTIATORS have tentatively agreed that Manila will take over a big American air base and four smaller facilities — most of them communications installations — when their lease expires in September, Raul Manglapus, the foreign secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Manglapus said he expected a final round of talks to be held next month.

The United States maintains Clark air base, Subic Bay naval base, and four smaller installations in the Philippines under a 1947 agreement. Two-thirds of the 23-member Senate, where anti-base sentiment is strong, must approve a treaty for the bases to remain or the American military presence to continue after the accord expires on September 16.

Mr Manglapus said: "There is a tentative understanding to take over Clark (after September 16) and that we will undertake commercial activities on the east side of the runway and that the Philippine air force will take over the west side of the runway."

At Subic, he said, the Philippines wanted the American presence phased out over five years or less.

NISSAN

TO SET UP OWN DEALER NETWORK

Nissan Motor Company plans to establish its own dealer network in the UK, to be operational from early 1992. Nissan is dedicated to providing the highest quality in all its services, from dealer support to customer service.

Here in Europe, Nissan enjoys the outstanding facilities of a leading car manufacturer, offering an exciting range of vehicles and exemplary customer services.

Nissan's comprehensive organisation in Europe encompasses local manufacturing plants at Sunderland in the UK and Barcelona in Spain; design, technology and development centres in the UK, Belgium and Spain; a pan-European parts distribution centre in the Netherlands, and the appropriate in-house financial services.

As well as support such as this to ensure prompt response to their needs, dealers will enjoy selling

a superb range of vehicles; the brand new Primera, Sunny and Micra, for example; the stunning 300ZX, Maxima, 200SX, Prairie and Patrol; and the hard-working Pickup, Urvan, Vanette and Cabstar.

Nissan's range is evidence of our dedication to quality; a dedication enshrined in the corporate philosophy you'll see below. We would like to extend a welcome to dealers who share our belief in that philosophy, to join Nissan's team for the 1990's.

For more details, please contact us at the address below. All correspondence will, of course, be treated in the strictest confidence.

Dealer Development Department, Nissan Europe N.V. (London), 5 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RA.

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NISSAN

Corporate Philosophy

Our first commitment is to customer satisfaction. Through diligent efforts to develop new customers and expand our customer base we are contributing to the ongoing progress and enrichment of society.

RAF men
killed
in Oman
jet crash

This time help the Balts

Woodrow Wyatt

America, Britain and other major countries have never recognised Stalin's annexation of the Baltic states. The British ambassador in Moscow has, since the last war, been forbidden to visit them, to avoid giving credence to the Soviet claims of sovereignty. The western attitude to the post-war central and east European countries was quite different. We recognised them as nations, though we knew that their communist governments were Soviet puppets. Nevertheless the central and East European nations were not incorporated in the Soviet Union, which is another difference between them and the Baltic states.

These were conquered by the tsarist Russian empire but kept their religious, cultural and free enterprise activities. The tsarist yoke, placed upon Estonia in 1721 and on Lithuania and Latvia in 1795, though greatly resented, no more changed their way of life than British rule did in the princely states of India. Tsarist governments appreciated that the Baltic states were further advanced commercially and industrially than the rest of Russia and that it would be better to imitate them than to crush their spirit and creativity. The clamp of Marxist-Leninist communism was a distant fantasy.

Under a secret pact in 1939, Moscow agreed to Hitler having half Poland and Stalin having the other half plus the Baltic states. These were neutrals and members of the League of Nations and had been free since 1920, when the Soviet Union solemnly promised by treaty to honour the integrity of the Baltic states in perpetuity. However, Stalin annexed them when France collapsed in June 1940. Hundreds of thousands were murdered, imprisoned or deported on a scale of savage brutality not even seen in Hitler's Germany. The intention was not just ruthlessly to subjugate the indigenous populations but to reduce their numbers and colonise their countries with huge influxes of people from the Soviet Union.

Then came the German attack on the Soviet Union. Germany occupied the Baltic states and many thousands more, including 300,000 Jews, were either deported or executed. In the summer of 1944 the Red Army came back, to the accompaniment of robbery, rape and executions. The Stalin policy of colonisation was resumed. It has continued ever since — even, until recently, under Gorbachev.

In Latvia the indigenous people are now not much larger in number than the deliberately imported non-Latvians. Indigenous Estonians comprise about two thirds of the present population.

Lithuanians have fared best, being still over 80 per cent in their own country. Hence, no doubt, the return of Stalinist policies, never completely abandoned, was aimed first at Lithuania. In the more or less free 1989 elections, for instance, members of the large Soviet forces stationed in the Baltic states were allowed to vote. If American, British, French and Soviet forces had voted in German elections, there would have been an international outcry.

Yet despite the pressures and the tricks, the Baltic states have produced governments which reject the Soviet annexation of 1940. They demand their freedom back, being in a wholly different relationship to Moscow from the other Soviet non-Russian republics whose rule from the Kremlin has long been accepted internationally.

To help prevent the light of glasnost being permanently switched off in the Baltic states there are some things the West can do. When Mr Gorbachev began the blockade of Lithuania last April we did not break it, as we should have done, by shipping in oil and other essential supplies. Anxious not to offend Mr Gorbachev, we hoped that he would be persuaded to lift the blockade, which eventually he did.

This time we should not hesitate to send in whatever may be needed to ensure the economic ability of the Baltic states to survive as separate entities. The Soviet Union itself is in desperate need of aid from the West. If Moscow refused to allow us to give it to the Baltic states we should cut off aid in food and economic cooperation with the Soviet Union as well.

Whatever faction now rules in the Kremlin would not be in a position to retaliate with armed force. That would only accelerate the collapse of the Soviet empire by inciting the large non-Russian republics such as the Ukraine to further violent unrest in their determination to avoid being squashed like the Baltic republics.

In the Russian republic, with just over half the population of the Soviet Union, there are powerful elements longing for democratic reforms, including self-determination. They are led by the properly elected Boris Yeltsin. If we act toughly, and not as appeasers, he and his supporters will be greatly strengthened in their resolve to allow the Baltic states immediately to govern themselves as they please. They will be encouraged in the hope that greater autonomy in other parts of the Soviet Union can be obtained without fighting. Nor would the Kremlin dare break up the coalition against Iraq. If the Soviet Union is to recover from its economic shambles, it needs us more than we need it.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I shall type September 3, and let you look at it for a second or two. Sunk in? Good. Did you say to yourself, yes, 1189, the coronation of King Richard I. I see it all. Westminster Abbey packed with nobles in rented iron dresswear, drunken groundlings cheering outside, tumblers, fire-eaters, spitted oxen being basted up and down the realm, beacons flaring on this hilltop and that? Or did you perhaps turn to the man strap-hanging beside you and say, here's a funny thing, did you realise Cecil Parker and Alan Ladd were both born on September 3, and did he say, well I never, did you realise it was also the day Sweden switched to driving on the right?

Of course not, any more than I had typed August 4 and the 8.14 had in consequence rocked with excited chatter about the founding of the Red Cross or the astonishing coincidence whereby if Sir Harry Lauder were still alive, he would be exactly 30 years older than the Queen Mother. For everyone knows what September 3 and August 4 are, and a fair few other such, for that is the way with dates like that: history's priorities being what they are, while we may not know Shakespeare's birthday, we know what happened upon St Crispin's Day. Robb Wilton was not alone in being able effortlessly to recall the day war broke out.

I might not be writing about this at all, had not my computer begun writing it for me. It always does. On the morning of the day I write, which is the one preceding the morning of the day you read, I switch on the machine, and I poke a floppy disc into its slot, and a little face materialises in the middle of the screen — always smiling, because the Apple Computer Company thinks it knows how backs feed first thing in the morning — and I am invited to punch up a pre-set programme, and the date automatically at the top. And because it is programmed not with writing dates but with Times publication dates, today it typed January 15, 1991.

Which is your today, not mine. Mine is still January 14. Anything might happen be-

tween yours and mine, and this piece could become even more irrelevant than usual. Saddam Hussein might suddenly appear among our front-line troops, handing out cigars and free tickets to the Baghdad premiere of *Rocky V* and complaining that the trouble with the UN was that it couldn't tell a practical joke from a hole in the ground, in which event January 15 could quietly go back to being Ivor Novello's birthday, and no more would be said. And the small hairs on the back of my neck would, when the computer typed tomorrow/today's date, have stiffened and sprung in vain.

But if not? Do you see my dilemma? What note am I to strike, down here in the margin of history? Jolly? Sombre? Jomre? If tomorrow/today is the beginning of something as horribly momentous as the date has come to portend, I should not want, in however minuscule a way, to get it off on the wrong foot. Nor should I want future generations, if there are any, to fill this newspaper for some small clue as to the national mood on the day the world went mad, and take the frivolous witterings of this small corner as an index of the general insouciance which ultimately led to their having to live in lead-lined burrows and wonder what it must have been like to make love without gas-masks on.

I find it truly bizarre to have to operate within phantom guidelines laid down by posterity's taste for dramatic irony. Forced by the deadline at the top of tomorrow/today's page to address the unaddressable, I can find no means of addressing it. I should much prefer to tell you about the coldest night in Crickwood's living memory, and coming out this morning to find nine goldfish and three frogs frozen solid into the pond like flies in amber, and wondering (I, not they) what the vet would say if I turned up in his surgery carrying this huge block of ice and asking him to stick his stethoscope on it to see if it was worth prescribing anything, but it just isn't that kind of day.

At least, it might not be tomorrow.

Make parents real partners at school

Margaret Hodge suggests a three-way contract that would hold teachers to account and raise educational standards

The London Charter for Education, which is being published today by a combination of parents, school governors, educationists and businessmen, draws attention — among other things — to the need for a new partnership between parents and schools if standards are to be radically improved.

Traditionally, schools have been closed and unaccountable institutions. Even the most pushy middle-class parents can find it difficult to establish a clear assessment of the performance of a school, or may feel inhibited in challenging a particular aspect of life in their child's school. Such inhibition is widespread. Before taking on the job of running education after the Inner London Education Authority was abolished, we in Islington did some research among secondary-school parents; of 100 approached, only two were willing to spend an evening discussing their children's education.

Some teachers might say this proves that only they care, that only they can be entrusted with our children's education. But another way of looking at it is that parents feel so alienated from the schools that they have given up.

Little has been published on schools' performance. Many teachers hide behind their professional status when standards and teaching methods are questioned by parents and pupils, even opposing the publication of examination results.

The government's purpose in publishing exam results appears to be to force schools to compete. I am more interested in publishing performance data because opening up our schools and making them accountable must be part of improving standards. Only if you know what is happening can you take the necessary steps to improve standards. In addition, parents and pupils have a right to know, and their confidence can be gained only if they have access to information about schools.

We need to look further than simply publishing exam results. For proper judgements to be made, we need information on such questions as teacher absenteeism, extra-curricular activities, homework policies and truancy and vandalism levels.

But we also need to develop other ways of opening up our schools to parents. Compulsory education has not, and cannot, result in compulsory learning. Children must want to learn, and active encouragement from parents is vital. Simply holding parents' evenings and tolerating a tame parent/teacher association for fund-raising purposes is not enough. Schools need to be more welcoming; too often the relationship with parents ends at the school gate.

The government's reforms assume that parents want to participate in running their children's school. While that may be true for some, not all have the time to do so. Most parents are primarily interested in their children getting a sound education.

The government's testing of children may be a useful barometer for setting standards at various ages, but parents really want to be sure that their child can fulfil his or her potential. We need to be able to assess how each individual child is performing in terms of his or her own ability as well as in terms of national standards.

I would like to see an individual contract being negotiated between parents, pupils and the school each year. In the contract, the school could undertake, for example, to ensure there was a teacher for each class and each subject; that an agreed amount of homework would be set and marked; that an agreed range of subjects would be taught; and that specialised extra-curricular activities would be available. More important, specific progress targets for each child could be negotiated and agreed.

For the parents' part, they would undertake to ensure, for instance, attendance at school and responsibility for homework. An individual home/school contract would explicitly state what parents could expect from the institution for their child.

None of this would be either simple or cheap. Obstacles come to mind at once. Individual assessments take time, and the money for them has to be found. There is also the question of what happens if one or other partner in the contract feels they have been let down.

If teachers thought their pay depended on meeting their side of the contract, they would undoubtedly negotiate lower standards which they could be certain of achieving. And what if a child's progress is suddenly halted by an emotional upheaval at home?

I do not pretend these ideas will by themselves improve standards. As always, we need to invest more money so that we have well trained, decently paid and properly valued teachers, and so that children are not left with too few books in crumbling schools. But money alone is not the answer. Opening up our schools and developing a genuine partnership between a school and its users will improve standards, and may restore the confidence of the many alienated parents we came across in our survey in Islington.

The author is leader of Islington Borough Council.

Richard Owen finds that reliance on America goes against the grain

Israel spoiling for a fight

Jerusalem

It seemed an unlikely day to herald Armageddon. In Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and for that matter in Nablus and Hebron in the occupied West Bank, the weather was glorious. But Israelis and Palestinians alike winced at every sonic boom from an Israeli war plane making a practice run, and searched the sunny skies for the first sign of an incoming Iraqi Scud missile.

The biggest fear among Israelis is that Saddam Hussein, knowing he faces certain defeat in the Gulf, will launch a missile, perhaps with a chemical warhead, in an attack on Israel designed to make him a hero to his fellow Arabs and perhaps undermine the coalition ranged against him. The biggest Palestinian fear is that Israel will take advantage of the mayhem to crack down hard on Palestinian unrest.

Among Palestinians and Jews alike, the outward calm and the orderly civil defence preparations — the sealing of upstairs rooms, as a haven from low-flying gas, and cleaning of air raid shelters — disguise deep anxiety. In a remarkably efficient operation, 3.5 million gas-masks have been distributed (the Supreme Court has just ordered this to be extended to Palestinians under occupation) and Israeli military reservists have been recalled. None the less, "How are you sleeping?" has become a common question.

Moshe Arens, the defence minister, met this concern recently by assuring his fellow countrymen that he slept very well indeed. Posing in front of a battle-ready fighter plane, Arens dismissed the idea that a "rain of missiles" was about to fall from the skies. "But I still have that familiar feeling in the pit of my stomach," said an Israeli journalist who lived through the wars of 1967 and 1973. "We Israelis, we Jews, have to live with the knowledge that every now and then someone tries to wipe us out."

The current atmosphere is not like 1967, however. Then, Israel faced a ground war on several fronts. Now, it faces a missile

attack which could lead to the first mass civilian casualties since 1948 — a far more difficult threat to neutralise, even with advanced air defences.

Some Israelis adopt a fatalistic attitude. In a Tel Aviv café yesterday a computer engineer said over his coffee and cake that he had refused to seal an upstairs room or carry his gas-mask everywhere. "Whether you get hit by the first strike is a matter of luck," he said. "What if there is a second strike? 'There won't be. There won't be an Iraq. Our air force will reduce it to rubble.'"

"An Iraqi missile will kill 400 of us at most," a mechanic said. "Unless Saddam really has the secret weapon he boasts about, we need not worry too much."

Israel has, in effect, undertaken not to launch a pre-emptive strike but reserves the right to retaliate once hit. For many Israelis, this apparent reliance on an outside power — America — goes against the grain. Nor does it satisfy the urge to take on Saddam and finish off the Iraqi menace. Some Israelis fear that America will confine itself to the liberation of Kuwait, leaving Israel to deal with Iraq in the future.

"Whenever I hear Saddam Hussein threatening Israel, I feel like Clint Eastwood," one Israeli friend confided. "I want to say to him, 'Go on make our day — give us the excuse to clobber you.'"

If it does become involved, Israel has the capacity to inflict devastating damage on Iraq. Ultimately, though, no Israeli official will confirm this, it could resort to "the big one", as Israelis call the nuclear option. The assumption is that Saddam Hussein knows this, and will attack Israel only if he has decided to invite certain martyrdom that might bring Syria into the war against Israel and foment mass Arab uprisings against pro-western regimes.

If that were to happen, the whole shape of the Middle East could change. Even if it does not, Jews and Palestinians believe that a settlement lies ahead after the Kuwait crisis is resolved. Suppos-



Preparing for the worst: a soldier demonstrates gas-mask use

ing, they ask, Saddam announces today that he is pulling out of Kuwait but has secured the agreement of a large number of UN members for a Middle East peace conference? Or what if he endures three or four days of hard pounding and then, emerging from his bunker in a devastated Baghdad, sues for peace through the UN? Might he still not be regarded by

Arabs as a hero who stood up to America and succeeded after all in obtaining some form of "linkage between Kuwait and Palestine"?

It would be a huge gamble. If in the chaos of war, Israel did crack down hard on Palestinian unrest or even moved into Jordan, the Palestinian cause would have been set back indefinitely. If, on the other hand, President Bush, out of

a desire to limit casualties and in deference to American public opinion, agreed to call a halt and negotiate, the Palestinian issue would again hold centre stage.

Most Israelis, confident of the invulnerability of their superb war machine, do not feel they are fighting for their existence, as they did when they stood alone against the Arab enemy in previous wars. Nor do they accept Saddam Hussein's absurd claim that he invaded Kuwait to liberate Palestine. But some, looking beyond the distribution of gas-masks and the speculation about the range of Iraqi missiles, foresee a re-drawing of the Middle East map which could be more profound and far-reaching than anything that followed the wars of 1956, 1967, 1973, or 1982.

So, while Israelis prepare calmly and hold "last chance" parties, Arens and Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, may have to decide whether and when to embroil Israel in the conflict. Both men have warned Jordan not to become involved, but the Jordanian and Iraqi military systems have become intertwined.

If Israeli aircraft overfly Jordan to hit Iraq, Jordan is bound to react, and so broaden the conflict. Even if Israeli planes use Saudi airspace, as they did ten years ago to destroy Iraq's nuclear reactor near Baghdad, the Arab reaction is unpredictable.

Small wonder that America, for which so much is at stake, has tried at this late hour to persuade Israeli leaders to keep a low profile and show restraint, assuring them that the American forces can detect Iraqi missile movements and defend Israel.

American commanders in the Gulf must have found the Israeli response less than totally reassuring. "Let us by all means accept the US request," the respected newspaper *Ha'aretz* said yesterday, "but let neither the US nor Iraq imagine that an Israeli show of restraint is the same thing as waiving our right to self-defence."

Digging in for battle of words

The looming war in the Gulf will be the first covered by journalists working openly behind enemy lines. Up to 100 western correspondents intend to stay in Baghdad after the expiry of today's deadline, and when the bombs start to fall can expect regular briefings from Najafi-Hadithi, Iraq's information chief.

Although a handful of intrepid journalists made brief forays into enemy territory in Korea and Vietnam, the presence of an entire press corps is unprecedented, says Phillip Knightley, author of *The First Casualty*, a chronicle of war correspondents through the ages. "It's like having British journalists in Berlin in the Second World War," he says. "The norm is for journalists to be evacuated with the diplomats."

Apart from a team from Cable News Network, most Americans have left, leaving the press corps dominated by British journalists, including staff reporters from *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent* and a team from the BBC. Those who have been there some time note an increasingly friendly attitude among Hadithi and other Iraqi officials, who until recently were giving journalists a hard time over the renewal of visas. Now they are being encouraged to stay, in the hope that they can be used as a conduit for Iraqi propaganda.

The press corps is aware of the pitfalls. "We would no doubt be wheeled out in special buses to see the injured in hospitals and the schools inadvertently hit," says the BBC's John Simpson, recalling similar scenes in Libya after the

American air attacks in 1986. The Ministry of Defence in London is determined that the strict reporting guidelines issued to journalists with the allied forces apply to western correspondents in Iraq. "It is necessary to avoid giving credence to enemy propaganda," the guidelines insist, calling into question how much of what British journalists see and hear in Baghdad may be reported.

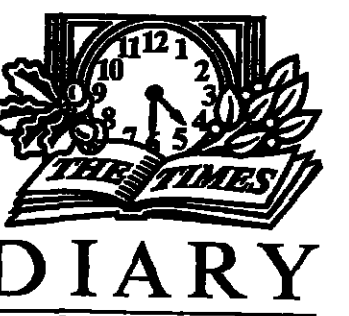
In the unlikely event that any Iraqi journalists still linger in London, they will have an even harder time, for the MoD has declined to offer any reciprocal arrangements. "We have an invited list of defence correspondents who will be welcome at our press briefings," says a spokesman. "The list certainly does not include Iraqis."

Blind date

As western governments say they cannot guarantee the safety of air travellers against Iraqi terrorist attacks, a new British Airways advertising campaign has raised some eyebrows. The slogan, which began appearing in newspapers over the weekend, runs: "You'll never have to fly another airline again. Never. January 15th, 1991."

Nothing to do with the Gulf deadline, but the starting date of the new leisure traveller class, explains a BA spokesman, who says the date was chosen long before the UN deadline to Saddam to quit Kuwait. There was no question of cancelling the campaign.

The BA marketing men seem to be jinxed by Saddam. Last August, when Iraqi tanks first rolled into Kuwait, BA had to abandon a £14



million campaign proclaiming a new age of international travel in a world at peace. The proposed ad featured an Arab and a westerner embracing in the desert.

● To ensure that guests who have booked a room tonight do show up, the Jerusalem Hilton is offering to upgrade them to a suite, with a complimentary bottle of champagne thrown in. Television set carry the round-the-clock CNN news service, so those brave enough to accept the offer will at least have a few minutes' warning of when to grab their shoes and socks and make for the fire escape.

Finnegans wait

Scholars who have waited half a century to learn the secrets of a trunk of written material once owned by James Joyce are in for a disappointment. They are to be told to hold their breath a little longer because the librarian who keeps the key and was expected to reveal the trunk's contents this week has gone on holiday.

The trunk, rescued from Joyce's Paris home by his friend Paul Leon after the German invasion, was deposited in Dublin with an instruction that it should not be opened until 50 years after the author's death. The anniversary

was on Sunday, but after so long a wait, the National Library of Dublin sees no reason for urgency.

"We have a staff shortage," says a library spokesman. "The director, Pat Donlon, has gone abroad on holiday leaving instructions that the trunk is not to be opened until after she returns and when we are fully staffed." That, it seems, could mean months rather than weeks.

Nor is the family in any hurry to discover the contents of the chest, which some believe contains sexually explicit letters. Mrs Solangi Joyce, wife of the author's grandson Stephen, who lives in Paris, says: "There is no reason why they should open it right now."

Even when the cobwebs are dusted off and the trunk is opened, the contents could prove an anti-climax. Professor Clive Hart of Essex University, the trustee of the Joyce estate, says: "It could contain exciting material, but it could just as easily be a damp squib. In any case, anything written by Joyce, even a shopping list, is copyright until the end of this year. The estate will see the material first, and if there is anything private and personal, the world may never know about it."

Household words

When the British ambassador, Sir Nicholas Fenn, formally exchanges New Year greetings today with the new Irish president, Mary Robinson, he should avoid discussing servant problems. Mrs Robinson has stunned many of her socialist

supporters with almost her first executive act: sacking eight domestic staff at her official residence, Aras an Uachtairain.

She told the eight women, three of them over 60 and seven living in, that she had a mandate from the Irish people to "open up" the office of presidency, and that this involved the use of outside caterers and cleaners.

Mrs Robinson, whose election strategy presented her as a new broom and a Celtic personification of Liberty, rejected an appeal



from the women for a six-month trial period to prove themselves. "We said we would change antiquated practices and do anything that would save our jobs, but to no avail," said one. "We have to be out by the end of the month."

The Office of Public Works, which is responsible for staff in the president's residence, is offering some of the women an enhanced early retirement package, while the others will be redeployed. "We are not in control of Mary Robinson," says an embarrassed spokesman for the Irish Labour party, which sponsored her successful bid for the presidency. "Nor would we want to be."

هكذا من الإلهام



PARLIAMENT AT THE BRINK

The world is now possibly within 24 hours of a horrendous war in the Middle East. Today the British Parliament debates the implications of such a conflict. The manner of this debate, reflecting differing democratic traditions on each side of the Atlantic, may be different. The outcome should be the same: to support the allied resistance to Iraqi aggression.

Congress last week plunged into the sort of florid arguement with which America has so often approached foreign entanglement. That so many senior politicians should be so uncertain in their support for their president seemed astonishing to outsiders. The cause on which George Bush embarked last summer was both honourable and crystal clear in its implications. He went as far as was conceivably possible to build a collective front against President Saddam Hussein. The United States found success in diplomacy that would have been hard to predict in advance, even in such unpromising territory as the United Nations.

Yet congressmen and senators could still find reason for backing off, not least the notorious appeaser's remedy of "giving sanctions longer to work". A latent aversion to the burdens of world statesmanship was shown by many Democrats, an aversion particularly sad at a time when America sits not alone but at the head of a coalition of 28 nations ranged against Iraq.

This equivocation, however, has yielded its dividend. Not only does Mr Bush have his congressional mandate for an assault on Iraqi forces in Kuwait, he can also present his nation as one that has duly deliberated on the enormity of what it is about, and has reluctantly chosen the agony of war. This is better by far than any gun-ho enthusiasm for slaughter. Seldom can a great nation have approached conflict with more sober awareness of what might be involved.

Britain's Parliament will show a different spirit. Majority party support for the

government coupled with the immediacy of crisis should ensure overwhelming backing for the cabinet. Both under Margaret Thatcher and under her successor, John Major, Britain has shown a commendable assurance. Once a decision was made to support American action, there has been no wavering and no attempt, except by certain Labour politicians, to imply that there might be some easy option that might make the threat of military confrontation unreal and yet, somehow, cause Saddam to back away.

There are risks in unanimity. No war should be approached without question. This is a war in a far-off land, to sustain a principle rather than a specific national interest. There are no British citizens or territories at risk. The principle, of national integrity, is not a simple one, nor one that has been sustained by military force in every case where it has been offended. The concept of proportionality in righting any wrong has, at times, seemed strained near to breaking point as armour pours into the Gulf.

Parliament would thus perform a public service if it examined in detail the principles at stake. It should explain to the British people, and especially to the armed forces and their families, why resisting aggression remains a prime duty of the international community and thus of its wealthier and stronger members. It should explain the right of Kuwait to survive and the duty of the United Nations to guard that right, militarily if need be.

The necessity of war has become more apparent the more hopeless has proved the search for a diplomatic solution. Wars that are to be avoided require no less weight of weaponry than wars that are to be fought. Weapons are for deterrence in a sound cause. If they have ceased to deter, that does not make the cause any less sound. It means they have to be used. It is their use that Parliament must sanction today.

LICENSING THE BBC

The BBC's famous charter is due for renewal in five years and the government yesterday signalled that it wants to cut the corporation down to size in the interim. The government has fixed the licence fee at 3 per cent below the rate of inflation, at least for the first three of the five remaining years. As so often in the history of the licence fee, the corporation does not know whether the Home Office decision reflects some dark new policy initiative, or merely a passing rebuff to what is seen as a hostile institution.

Reducing the real value of licence-fee income will force the BBC to start looking seriously for additional income, as well as to cut services and staff. Nobody acquainted with it will doubt its ability to do both, with its oligopolistic advantages and corporate giantism. The BBC is famous for its rank upon rank of non-productive executives; there should be little difficulty in cutting 3 per cent of them.

That does not meet the BBC's more legitimate worry: what does the licence fee decision imply for the longer term? Public service broadcasting, enshrined in the BBC charter and in much of its activity, makes a valuable contribution to education, the arts and the political life of the nation. That is an appropriate recipient of subsidy. Though there is no inherent reason why the BBC should have a monopoly on such broadcasting, its past quality, integrity and independence deserve protection against politicians of all stripes.

The BBC's greatest mistake now would be to say that it cannot define public service broadcasting for itself, then it will let the system run downhill, blaming the government. While the corporation is entitled to independence of political pressure, it is not entitled to formulate whatever definition of public service suits the interests of its senior

staff. In particular, the definition that says the BBC must do everything the commercial channels do, and more, is becoming ridiculous.

Controversial policies have included competing with commercial stations and local video shops by screening old movies at peak times, outbidding ITV for expensive sporting fixtures, proliferating popular music channels and insisting on rivaling the private sector in local radio. There is a conviction on the part of the BBC governors that a virtue performance in the ratings war is more important to its licence fee than a public perception of quality. By dissipating its energies on mediocre output, the BBC has allowed commercial television and radio to rival and even outstrip it for quality. This, and its present "our movies are better than yours" rivalry, is the biggest threat to the future of the BBC.

The BBC deserves public money, as do the arts and higher education, for it to make programmes that the private sector cannot afford, also offering a standard of news and information that the free market would not otherwise supply. At present, it is unquestionably failing in the latter respect. BBC Radios 1 and 2 would not be appreciably different if run as commercial operations, paid for by advertising.

Shorn of such imperialism the BBC could regain its Reithian purpose of informing and educating the public, as well as sometimes entertaining it. Its supporters could then be asked to defend not a vast institution smug in its self-righteousness, but a valuable contribution to British culture. Whether the government sees the matter this way is doubtful. But that should not inhibit the BBC from examining new definitions of its purpose, the more strongly to win the debate for its survival as 1996 approaches.

NO NEW IRON CURTAIN

What do the guns of Vilnius, whoever ordered them to fire at the weekend, mean for the future of security in Europe? Few of the former Eastern block states are in any doubt. Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary will hold an emergency summit next Monday. Czechoslovakia has threatened to walk out of the Warsaw Pact and both Prague and Budapest are looking to Nato for future protection against a resurgent Soviet imperialism. There is talk of a "new Iron Curtain", this time to fence them off from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union's troubles are relevant to the security of the whole of Europe, east and west. Mr Gorbachev's reluctance to relinquish federal power to a confederation of autonomous republics has been evident for months. This refusal to respond to nationalist aspirations carries the risk of more violence. There can be no such thing as a harmless civil war in so vast and heavily armed an empire.

Fewer than two months ago, the cold war formally ended at a summit of 34 governments in Paris with the signing of an East-West arms reduction treaty and a charter which pledged the signatories to "make which democratic gains irreversible". The mood was anything but euphoric. Speaker after speaker from Eastern Europe appealed for Western help to ward off political and economic instability, warning that their democracies had fragile roots. They sought democratic aid and closer political ties but some sort of security guarantee.

The most chilling contribution can be seen, with hindsight, to have come from Mr Gorbachev himself. The Soviet president spoke of the "Lebanonisation of entire regions" and, lest the context be taken to be purely domestic, gave a warning that "restless separatism could have an alarming

snowball effect, throwing Europe back to a state it knows only too well". He promised that the Soviet Union, no matter what its internal difficulties, would play a "stabilising" role. The stability now being imposed on Lithuania will prompt such neighbours as Poland to seek a Western insurance policy.

Apart from suspending aid and short of returning to the cold war, how should the West respond? The Soviet Union should be sharply reminded of the political as well as economic costs of its failure to observe the Charter of Paris, which set out clear rules on respect for civil and political rights. Under the Charter, the Soviet government has relinquished the right to insist that its behaviour in Vilnius is an internal affair. The West could take a far keener diplomatic interest in the Baltic republics, possibly by stationing consulates in their capitals; it could also seriously consider diverting aid to the Russian Federation whose president, Boris Yeltsin, has taken the side of principle against the use of force.

For some months, Czechoslovakia and Hungary have made plain that they look to Nato, in President Havel's words, as Europe's "guarantee of freedom and democracy". Nato is certainly Europe's only functioning security organisation. Nato should postpone considering their actual membership, in the hope that circumstances will not soon require a positive answer. But Mr Gorbachev's common European home is looking more and more like a Western house which the East wants to share. Nato defines its new role as "building peace" in the entire Continent. That entails responsibilities to the Soviet Union's former satellites.

Assumptions of war: countdown to deadline in the Gulf

From Mr Crispin Blunt

Sir, After the failure at Geneva and of the United Nations Secretary General it is over to the military now. It is the soldiers' wish to get on with it and get the war over as rapidly as possible. We must hope that the Iraqi army realises the futility of this fight and buckles in the face of overwhelming right and might. If it does not, the leaders of the coalition must steel themselves to use all our military potential - that is the least support they owe to our forces in the Gulf.

Having recently served as an armoured reconnaissance officer with the 13th/18th Royal Hussars I could not now justify asking my comrades to reconnoitre a way through and others to assault main defensive positions which politicians have given the Iraqi army five months to prepare, without maximum weapons support.

If militarily we need neutron bombs against Iraqi armour, tactical nuclear weapons against prepared defensive positions and non-persistent nerve agent prior to infantry assaults, then so be it. I cannot see why our soldiers should have to die whilst we win "gently".

Yours sincerely,
CRISPIN BLUNT (Prospective parliamentary candidate),
West Bromwich East Conservative Association,
6a Newton Road, Birmingham 43,
January 14.

From Mr Paul Chrysal

Sir, Michael Evans's article, "Gulf poker" (January 11), illustrates well a feature which has characterised much of the media coverage of the Gulf crisis, namely the assumption that what is being reported from official sources is, in fact, the truth. The very fact that President Bush, John Major and Douglas Hurd have apparently discounted a nuclear option in any Gulf war should not necessarily, as Michael Evans appears to believe, obviate the possibility that such an option may actually be used.

Evans is quite right when he says that "propaganda has an important role to play in the build-up to a conflict", particularly when "it is believed", but the credibility of all such statements at a time like this must be questionable, not least to their intended objects in Iraq.

The constant media coverage that this and other recent crises have attracted may cause readers, listeners and television viewers to forget sometimes that no one, be they in Baghdad, London, Riyadh or Washington, is going to promulgate to the world his real strategy for victory.

Yours etc,
PAUL CHRYSAL,
61 Snowcroft,
Capel St Mary, Suffolk.

Oxfam on birth control

From Dr John Guillebaud

Sir, The letter which I co-signed with Jack Parsons and others (January 8) never said, as suggested by Oxfam (January 10), that "birth control taken in isolation is the answer to the world's population problem". Why is it that when I say "as I have for at least 18 years since I was first invited to serve on Oxfam's medical advisory panel in May 1972 - 'we need more family planning as well', what Oxfam hears is 'family planning instead' (of other aspects of aid)? Not so!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GUILLEBAUD
(Medical Director),
Margaret Pyke Centre,
15 Bateman's Buildings,
Soho Square, W1,
January 11.

From Mrs Valerie Riches
Sir, It is misleading to suggest, as do Mr Jack Parsons and his co-signatories, that the provision of birth control eliminates the need for abortion. Even among those in the birth-control lobby it is recognised that the provision of contraception leads to an increase in the abortion rate.

Dr Malcolm Potts, a notable figure in the population control movement and one of the signatories of the letter, has written: "No society has controlled its fertility... without recourse to a significant number of abortions. In fact abortion is often the starting place in the control of fertility".

Yours sincerely,
VALERIE RICHES (Director),
Family & Youth Concern,
Wicken,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire,
January 8.

Franking service

From the Chairman of the Housman Society

Sir, The Post Office's franking service has for long been a valuable one for societies such as ours. The minimum number of letters has been 120 for as long as I can remember, so imagine my frustration on going to the local post office today with 241 letters, only to be told that this minimum number had been raised to 500.

I have always found the Post Office in this area to be very efficient and am sad that a good image should have been dented by this 416 per cent increase.

Yours faithfully,
JIM PAGE, Chairman,
The Housman Society,
80 New Road,
Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire,
January 9.

From Commander T. V. G. Binney, RN (ret'd)

Sir, A stimulating aspect of the present media coverage of events in the Gulf has been the interviews with British servicemen on the spot. From commanders, down through the ranks to the individual soldiers, sailors and airmen - what a refreshing change to the usual daily diet of all-too-often trivial politicians, sportsmen, entertainers and other "personalities".

These fundamentally ordinary people, typical of their respective services, who through leadership, training, discipline, commitment and justified self-esteem have seemed to become in a sense extraordinary. We should make the most of these privileged glimpses of them doing a job at which they are second to none and not forget them when it is all over.

Yours faithfully,
GILES BINNEY,
Oak Down, Lower Durdur Wood,
Petersfield, Hampshire,
January 11.

From Dr Hugh Middleton

Sir, We are spending huge sums of money desperately needed for other purposes and we have put at risk hundreds of thousands of lives, increasingly scarce raw materials and the wellbeing of the atmosphere in pursuit of the punishment of one man. This is a witchhunt of bizarre proportions.

In the days when wars left an aftermath that could heal, this sort of response was valid. It is an effective method of deterring tyranny and enforcing justice. The advent of weapons of mass destruction weakens its validity.

Saddam Hussein appears to have many of the characteristics of a ruthless psychopathic criminal. No self-respecting police force would deliberately force such a person into a corner where his only option is to lash out. Such a person would be approached tentatively and in a spirit of mediation, with the aim of defusing the situation first, and discussing questions of justice, revenge and punishment later, and in less heated circumstances. Unfortunately these lessons of civilian life have yet to be transferred to the conduct of international conflict.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MIDDLETON,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Psychiatry,
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge,
January 6.

From the Director of Christian Aid and others

Sir, The effects of a war in the Gulf could, we believe, set back by a decade the development work in many of the countries we assist. Of particular concern to us are the countries in Africa where the lethal

combination of war and drought is already putting 20 million lives at risk of starvation. Thousands have already died. We are urgently appealing for funds to generate a speedy and effective response to this burgeoning crisis.

War in the Gulf will certainly disrupt that relief effort and we fear that aid which is already desperately needed in Africa may be diverted. We call upon your readers and her Majesty's government to ensure that the cost of war in the Gulf, if it comes, will not be borne by the poor of the world. We also take this opportunity to repeat our call for funds to meet the huge existing crisis in Africa.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL TAYLOR (Christian Aid),
CATHY CORCORAN (CAFOD),
NICHOLAS HINTON
(Save the Children Fund),
FRANK JUDD (Oxfam),
c/o Christian Aid,
PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT,
January 11.

From Mr Marc Holthof

Sir, One unfortunate side-effect of an Allied attack on Iraq will be - as Saddam Hussein knows very well - to put an end to the moral authority of the United Nations in the third world. For many third-world nations January 15 will not be the start of a new world order, but the continuation of the old one: that of Western supremacy.

Yours sincerely,
MARC HOLTIOF,
Kammenstraat 14,
2000 Antwerp, Belgium,
January 8.

From Mr Christopher Derrick

Sir, *Nous gagnons parce que nous sommes plus forts* (we shall win because we are stronger). In the late summer of 1939, I saw many posters in that sense on confident display in Paris. They have many present-day echoes. It may be as well to remember that the gods have been known to punish that kind of hubris among others.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER DERRICK,
6 St Michael's Road,
Wallingford, Surrey,
January 14.

From the Reverend S. H. Baynes

Sir, In our confrontation with Iraq we should perhaps remember the wisdom of Milton, "Who overcomes by force, hath overcome but half his foe", and that of Newman, quoting an ancient sage "... we should ever conduct ourselves towards our enemy as if he were one day to be our friend".

Yours faithfully,
S. H. BAYNES,
The Vicarage, Maidens Green,
Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire,
January 11.

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, Is it not idle to enquire, in the wake of some disaster, why an employee in breach of instructions failed to check the brakes, or bared wires in a signal box, or left bow doors open? The supervisory responsibility lies with management. This is not the occasion upon which to criticise the service of British Rail, or indeed to question the court decisions on the Clapham and Herald of Free Enterprise disasters.

Not so long ago I suggested that the trade unions should be able to nominate to the board some members who did the job upon which the safety of the public depends; a suggestion which was greeted with polite derision in certain quarters of the House. Perhaps it may now receive consideration?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY,
2 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4,
January 9.

Cemetery's future

From Councillor Stewart Hunter

Sir, In reply to Mr Reed's letter (January 3), West Norwood Cemetery is not under threat; there is no widespread clearance of memorials, nor may bulldozers be seen at work daily. Lambeth Council bought the cemetery in 1966 when its previous owners became bankrupt. Since then the council has made major improvements.

Our current improvement works consist of the cutting and removal of brambles and other undergrowth from areas which have become overgrown and the collection and removal of memorial masonry which has become broken over many years. In the process a small

number of old and dilapidated memorials have been removed from graves that have not been buried in since 1876.

The council is well aware of the cemetery's historical value and with this in mind is meeting English Heritage, the Victorian Society and the Norwood Society so as to ensure that any conflict between cemetery management and conservation can be reconciled.

Yours sincerely,
STEWART HUNTER
(Chairman, Environmental and Leisure Committee),
London Borough of Lambeth,
George West House,
2 Clapham Common
North Side, SW4.

qualifications. Those who have achieved their academic success the hard way do not always get the credit they deserve. With experience of both, I think it can be a good deal easier to get a degree after three years' full-time study than to pass a professional qualification after years of evening classes or correspondence courses.

The correspondence colleges I have worked with provide a conscientious service and number amongst their successful students some of the very best performers, including prizewinners. I hope the prime minister's remarks will make the "snobs" think again.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC GLOVER (Director and Treasurer, Council for the Accreditation of Correspondence Colleges),
The Chartered Institute of Bankers,
10 Lombard Street, EC3,
January 9.

Interest rates as key to recession

From Mr D. L. Howson

Sir, The UK economy has slowed sharply since the first half of 1990 and is now at best in a technical recession. Interest rates of 14 per cent compare with rates of 8.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent in most other ERM (exchange-rate mechanism) countries. Domestic demand is weak and international competition is tough.

Failures notified to my company in 1990 were 80 per cent up on the 1989 figures and all indications are that 1991 will be even worse. The latest official figures (report, Business pages, January 9) suggest the steepest quarterly drop in company profits since 1981 and no one expects them to improve. The company-sector financial deficit has risen to unprecedented levels.

Deficits have to be financed and that means mounting debt. With the current high level of real interest rates, companies' net income earning has soared to just under 40 per cent - again unprecedented. The company sector is battered and bruised and much of it is just praying for survival.

Traders are not helped by the growing uncertainty of what action the banking world will take. Worst of all, good businesses are going to the wall, often destroyed by a domino effect outside their control.

If we wish to preserve any resemblance to an industrial nation with an essential manufacturing base, an early reduction in interest rates is vital. From our experience it is glaringly obvious in the European credit insurance scene that no other ERM country has the same degree of business collapse - but then no other ERM country has our level of interest rates.

Mr Lamont, the Chancellor, is perceived by some as a man of inaction. Even action today will take at least six months to have any effect.

Yours faithfully,
D. L. HOWSON (Director),
Trade Indemnity Group,
12-34 Great Eastern Street, EC2,
January 11.

Banking ills

From Mr Peter Tarrant-Willis

Sir, On January 8, the day that you ran the headline "Target sold by TSB at loss of £200m", your leader, "No dimes to spare", stated that, in America, "curiously, the cure for today's banking ills seems to be the opposite of that adopted in the 1930s: to lift the Glass-Steagall constraints [on share-dealing by banks] and allow the American banks to restore their credit-worthiness through mergers and the expansion of their fields of operation".

You went on to say that "permission to expand away from lending into insurance and stock-broking could help to strengthen the system in the long term". The conglomerate dream again?

On the other hand, confidence might be better revived if bankers banked, insurers insured, and stock-brokers brokered. Jack of all trades all too often proves master of none.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TARRANT-WILLIS,
108 Mill Lane,
West Hampstead, NW6.

Teesside ghost

From Squadron Leader Hugh Field (ret'd)

Sir, May I add a footnote to your recent story (December 26) about the ghost of Teesside Airport? I was training as a Meteor flying instructor at the time of the accident and was posted to 205 Advanced Flying School, Middleton St George, shortly afterwards.

The accident had many bizarre features and coincidences. The Meteor Mk IV failed to become airborne from the short runway which pointed toward the officers' mess (the long runway normally used had no such obstruction). The aircraft demolished the pilot's own motor car before taking the corner off the ladies' room. It came to rest with its nose embedded in the pilot's own bedroom where, sadly, he was killed by falling masonry.

Yours faithfully,
H. O. FIELD,
22 Thornton Close,
Clifton, Cambridge,
January 11.

Barefaced cheek?

From Sir Robin MacLellan

Sir, Those who persist in pandering to a chairman's vanity by publishing out-of-date photographs of the great man should be prosecuted under the Trades Description Act. Shareholders should insist on seeing the guardians of our savings as they really are, waris and tramlines and all, not as they used to be. Investors need to know if Alexander Pope got it right:

By Nature honest, by Experience wise,
Healthy by Temperance, and by Exercise.

A chairman may look bloody, but at least we ought to be allowed to judge for ourselves whether he is as unbowed as he likes to think he is.

Yours,
ROBIN MACLELLAN,
11 Bechwood Court,
Bearsden, Glasgow,
January 7.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.

Simply made in America

CHRISTOPHER MOORE

Britain is about to meet the biggest US clothing company, as Lizwear makes its debut here. Anne Marie Schiro reports on one woman's affordable, comfortable style



When "Lizwear" arrives here next week, the British customer may ask "Liz who?". Although a household name in middle America, the Liz Claiborne label is going to need some introduction when the racks of simply-styled clothes in which it is stitched are delivered to British stores at the end of the month.

Liz Claiborne Inc is, quite simply, the largest clothing company in America. Founded in 1976 by Elisabeth Claiborne and her husband, Arthur Ortenberg, its success is built on the no-nonsense premise that smart clothes do not have to be expensive. Ms Claiborne, who was already aged 49 and a respected designer on Seventh Avenue when she set up on her own, was a visionary who recognised the needs of her fellow career women a decade ahead of Donna Karan. Her idea was to make comfortable, affordable clothes for them, clothes that are stylish but not trendy. "I don't believe in the grey flannel suit," she says. "I think a working woman can wear the casual separates we call sportswear in the US and be appropriately dressed for the office, for her weekend life and for going out in the evening."

Her timing was perfect. Millions of American women were entering the workforce in professional and managerial capacities, and were being offered little but "dress for success" tailored suits. Ms Claiborne's idea was to offer women an alternative - clothes she likes to describe as "business-like but not too pinstripe, more casual, more imaginative, less uptight".

The Liz Claiborne line, well priced and expertly edited, will be competing in this country with medium-priced European labels, most of them German. The relaxed American styling of the easy jackets and trousers, in madras checks and shantung, or cotton canvas with batik prints, is bound to appeal more to British taste than the heavier fussiness of most German styling. The Claiborne formula fits the mood of the Nineties. There is a softer feel to tailoring today, and sportswear in the shape of stretchy leotards and

leggings is the base for more conventional outfits.

Ms Claiborne did something else that many manufacturers have failed to do. The company delivered clothes to the stores on time, and in well-edited groups to allow a woman to build up a complete outfit. It also delivered new merchandise every two months, generally offering seasonal clothing that could be worn at the time it was in the stores, and not four or five months later, as is the industry norm.

The fashion philosophy of the company has never changed. What began with an investment of \$250,000 (£125,000) has been a money-maker from the start. In the United States last year - two years after the Ortenbergs retired from the business - Liz Claiborne Inc totted up sales of more than \$1.25 billion. Today the company is headed by Jerome Chazane (a member of the Liz Claiborne team since 1977), and is defying the difficult retailing climate by embarking on an international programme, with the United Kingdom as its launchpad into Europe.

The founders of the company, while enjoying the fruits of their well-earned success (a Caribbean retreat, two ranches in Montana and a Manhattan apartment, as well as their main base off Long Island), now pour their energy into a foundation established in 1984 to champion environmental concerns.

Their company, meanwhile, continues on its upward path. It has expanded its range beyond sportswear into a more formal "Liz Claiborne Collection" of dresses, men's wear, Liz & Co (petite sizes), Elisabeth (large sizes), cosmetics and accessories. Even furnishings were added to the range. Ms Claiborne had never dreamt of creating such an empire. "I thought the company would be successful," she said in 1985, "but my idea of success was \$20 million, maybe \$25 million."

No one person could possibly design it all. Ms Claiborne herself had not designed the collections for many years, but acted more as an editor, guiding the fashion direction of the company and



Work clothes: above left, white jacket (£110), print shirt (£40) and putty trousers (£40). Above, check jacket (£108), matching shorts (£44) and yellow/navy sweater (£44)

overseeing a design team that can continue today without her. The company owns no factories, contracting all of its work to more than 30 different manufacturing points in Asia, the Caribbean and Central America.

Since 1987 the company has been using the store-within-a-store concept, establishing boutiques in department stores that house in one area all Liz Claiborne merchandise, from clothing to cosmetics.

British customers will also see the Liz Claiborne ranges as a complete wardrobe in most of the stores, although Harrods will separate Lizwear, casual weekend

separates, and Lizsport, the slightly dressier separates, from the more career-minded tailoring of the main Liz Collection.

Ann Picher of Harrods believes the Liz Claiborne look will travel well across the Atlantic. "It is so well priced, and gives the customer the chance to build up a wardrobe that does not date from one season to the next," she says. "There are lots of natural fibres. The dresses are wonderful. Anyone can wear the look."

First deliveries into British stores will comprise separates in light wool and sand-washed silk in putty, cream and pistachio green,

mixed with checks, spots and stripes. The next waves become successively more summery in denim, twill and linen, with cotton knitwear and "Jackie O" Sixties shifts in cotton and crepe. A customer can put together five pieces from Liz Claiborne - a short-sleeved polo top, cardigan, handkerchief, skirt and shorts - for £200. The dress collection is priced from £120 to £150.

• The Liz Claiborne collections will be available from January 29 in Selfridges, W1; Debenhams, W1; Harrods, SW1; Debenhams, Birmingham; Kendalls, Manchester; Frasers, Glasgow.

A turnaround for safety's sake

Can the safety of train and aeroplane seats be improved without jeopardising comfort?

Recently a German motor magazine carried out an accident test on a number of large family saloons - Renault 25, Vauxhall Carlton, Mercedes 200, BMW 5-series, Volvo 740, and so on. The cars were driven at 34mph into the corner of a concrete block and the "injuries" to their dummy occupants assessed, on a scale of "none" to "life-threatening".

The BMW was judged safest, followed by the Mercedes, with the Volvo ranking third. Whether the sight of the cuts and dents suffered by some of the dummies will have a lasting effect on the magazine's readers remains to be seen. But at least with a car it is possible to set up such a test and predict the position of its occupants at the moment of impact.

In a train, as last week's Cannon Street station accident shows, this is far more difficult. Seated passengers may be facing forwards or backwards; other people may be in the act of standing up, or in the lavatory, or preparing to jump out of an already-open door - or they may be standing in the aisle because there are no free seats.

With aeroplanes, the situation seems more straightforward: most passengers will be seated, in forward-facing seats, at the moment of impact. Some may even have braced themselves in the recommended position. Unfortunately, in an aeroplane that is dropping out of the sky, the chances are that safety precautions will be redundant.

All of these factors mean that the designers of seating for planes and trains are working to contradictory briefs. What is the point of designing safe seating for trains if most of the passengers are not sitting? What is the point of designing safe seating for planes if the safest seat in the world could not withstand the impact of a crash?

Marvin Shane, of the interior designers Tilney Lumsden Shane, is working on the new train for the Channel tunnel rail link. He is, he says, dealing in damage limitation. A survivor of the Cannon Street crash reported that "seats were thrown into the air" and that "people were smashing into each other and one woman had her leg jammed between two seats".

Surely designers could create seats that would not be thrown about on impact, or trap people's feet?

On trains, unlike planes where weight is critical, more substantial, padded seats are a design

option. But other features of British Rail's new carriages - a mixture of uni-directional and face-to-face seating, screens, tables - are more a response to consumer demand than safety factors. Tony Howard, of BR's rolling stock design department, says: "We do have an almost political requirement to get bums on seats." BR's research has shown that people want to feel they are in a spacious, comfortable, secure environment. But is it a good idea to make them feel secure if they are not?

On aeroplanes, statistically the safest form of travel, the captain's announcements, the seat belts, the emergency briefing remind passengers that they are taking a risk. On trains, Mr Howard admits, it should be possible in theory to design a dangerous-looking connection door to prevent people crowding to the front of the train as it approaches the station; or to provide seat belts; or to make announcements instructing people to remain seated until the train had stopped. But this would be to

sacrifice the relaxed atmosphere. Ever since the beginning of train travel, patent devices have been designed to make trains a "home-from-home" (a term Mr Howard used about today's InterCity trains); in one scheme of 1858, every second seat could be hoisted towards the ceiling and then folded out to form a bed. Safety was seldom a factor, however. Even now, sleeping cars are hardly designed with safety as a priority - although that has not prevented airlines, too, from experimenting with bunk beds.

The simplest device for protecting the seated passenger may well be one that was adopted in principle by the RAF for its transport planes in 1945: rear-facing seats. The enquiry into the Kegworth air disaster two years ago recommended that the Civil Aviation Authority should research their potential for passenger aircraft.

For trains, rear-facing seats present a problem. Carriages are designed to travel in both directions: seats facing the rear on one journey will be facing the front on the next. But it should be possible for designers to come up with swivelling or reversible seats, without weakening them structurally.

And for passengers unable to get a seat, designers should perhaps be thinking of instantly inflating suits. It is hard to see what other protection they can be offered.

CALLUM MURRAY



In-flight comfort: but were BOAC's sleeping berths a safe idea?

The ecu may be the coin of the future, but it is really 390 years old and has appeared in a variety of forms

Hard currency or soft centre?

THE fourth most traded currency in the world is, in various guises, invisible, unspendable and made of chocolate. The two-and-a-quarter ounce, foil-covered milk chocolate coin on sale at Rocco in the King's Road, Chelsea, are the closest the British public will get to a pocketable pan-European currency for some years. Modelled on the commemorative ecu coin produced by the Belgian government in 1987, they are made by a French company and sell very well in London at £1.50 each.

The invisible version of the ecu (European currency unit) exists only as a trading commodity, ranking close behind the dollar, the yen and sterling in popularity. Its value is based on a basket of currencies, making one ecu worth about 70p at present. The acronymic ecu recently celebrated its twelfth birthday, but the word ecu dates from 1601, when a form of French currency bearing the name was struck at the Paris mint.

Although the future of the prime minister's proposed "hard" ecu remains in doubt, in the past five years many European countries have struck commemorative ecus in soft metals. Several million gold and silver ecus of Belgian, French, Spanish and Irish design are in circulation, and although most of them are recognised as legal tender in

their countries of origin, it would be profligate to spend them since they are more valuable as collectors' items.

The Irish ecu, unlike its Belgian and French equivalents, is officially classified as a medal and is not recognised as legal tender. It was minted last June to commemorate the Irish presidency of the Council of Ministers, and was presented to heads of state before going on sale. Ironically for a piece of pan-European currency, which is designed to break down fiscal barriers, the Irish ecu poses import problems. When Spink and Sons, a leading London coin company, recently transported a range of ecus into Switzerland for a large numismatic convention, the Irish items were singled out by customs officials for a special rate of duty because they are not legal tender. "It is one of the smaller problems of European harmonisation," a spokesman for the company's modern coin department says.



The symbolic ecu coin made by France in 1986

To be fair, the Irish fifty, ten and five ecu pieces were never intended to be used as retail currency. They are collectors' items, recognised by dealers as an attractive set of coins. Both the 22ct gold and the sterling silver varieties carry the Irish harp on the obverse, with an Irish red deer, by Thomas Ryan, the president of the Royal Hibernian Academy, on the back. This image has been adapted from the design of the current one euro coin, but other European ecus bear totally new designs.

Historical and mythical figures are popular subjects for ecu designers. Pierre Rodier, as master engraver of the Parisian Money and Medals Administration, adorned the 1985 ecu with an elegant image of Ceres, the goddess of fecundity and symbol of the European Community. Carole Tietie's design for the French 70 and 15 ecu pieces, minted in May last year, bore a portrait of an early advocate of pan-Europeanism, Char-

lemagne, complete with a flowing, flowery beard. The Belgian coin, issued in 1987 to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, featured Charles V, whose 16th century monetary reforms were considered by the Belgians to be an early prefiguration of the European open market. The coin design is based on a reproduction of the carolus d'or, first struck in 1521.

The modern carolus d'or has proved popular with many collectors. British numismatists, however, have shown little interest in any of the collectable ecus. Sandra Ferguson, of Spink and Sons' bullion department, rarely deals in the recently issued French and Belgian ecus. "They are not particularly popular with British collectors," she says.

There are no plans for the Royal Mint to strike a British version of the ecu, but designs for a commemorative 50 pence piece to mark Britain's presidency of the European Council of Ministers in 1992 are already under scrutiny. The 1992 50p will double as commemorative coin and currency, yet only once have any of the current ecus been put to practical use. In a gesture of

enthusiasm for monetary union, Luxembourg launched a "mois de l'Europe" campaign in November 1989. Shopkeepers all displayed prices in Luxembourg francs and ecus.

Should the ecu ever be designated a pan-European currency, a demanding design brief will require a dozen national identities within a reasonably sized set of coins and notes. That may soon exercise the creative talents of designers from Lisbon to Dresden.

SUE MOORE

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BRIEFING

Drawn by big sister

A PREVIOUSLY unknown portrait of Anne Brontë – painted by her sister Charlotte – has come to light. The Brontë Parsonage Museum found out about the watercolour portrait from an American housewife, who was left it by her grandfather and wrote to the museum asking for advice. Jane Sellars, director of the museum in the Haworth parsonage where the Brontë family lived, asked to see the portrait. "There's no doubt about its authenticity," says Sellars. "It was a great thrill to realise what we'd got. The only other authentic likenesses are a pencil drawing by Charlotte and a group family painting by their brother Branwell." Charlotte, the author of *Jane Eyre*, was the eldest; sister Emily wrote *Wuthering Heights*, and Anne wrote *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.



The Brontë portrait: Anne, as seen by her sister Charlotte

Singalonganopera

ANY opera lovers who aspire to the big time should make their way to the Barbican on Sunday at 3pm, when they can become part of a 2,000-strong chorus bashing out numbers from all their favourite operas. The Royal Academy of Music is presenting its third fundraising Opera Singalong, in which the audience itself will be led in choruses from *Die Meistersinger*, *Il trovatore*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Nabucco*, *Madam Butterfly* and *Cavalleria rusticana*.

Last chance...

SHEILA Fell was a relatively isolated figure on the British art scene, and when she died in 1979, at the age of 48, the only movement she had ever been vaguely related to – "kitchen sink" realism – was right out of favour. After a decade of neglect, we know better. Her passionate, expressionistic landscapes of her beloved Cumbria and her rap, mystical evocations of snowy nights and secret cottages look better than ever at the Royal Academy (071-439 7438), making fine but belated amends. Until Sunday.

LITERATURE

Smoothing over sticky moments

One classic symptom of writer's block is a tendency to rewrite for no reason. Let me rephrase that. A blocked writer keeps on rewriting the same few words, and the results usually get worse.

Still not quite there, is it? Perhaps: altering the same sentence over and over again, a writer could well be experiencing a block.

No; the sparkle is just not on tap today. Zachary Leader says it better: "A writer's block can be manifest in a feeling that everything, including your name, could use some work."

Leader should know about writer's block, since he has just written *Writer's Block*, a 300-page (some published today, it will fascinate, comfort or horrify anyone who has stared blankly at a blank sheet of paper, or cursed at a cursor winking accusingly on an empty word-processor screen. Leader treats the subject exhaustively, from every imaginable psychoanalytical, cultural and historical angle, and in beautiful prose, buttressed by hundreds of footnotes. There is no sign of blockage in this mind.

Or is there? Consider the book's genesis. A Harvard and Cambridge-educated academic, now lecturing at the Roehampton Institute, Leader was preparing a doctoral dissertation on William Blake some years ago. "Everyone who writes about Blake has to consider the matter of Blake's sanity. It occurred to me that one mark of his sanity was the ease with which he moved on at intractable moments."

By contrast, Leader found his own dissertation hard going, delayed by "a neurotic compulsion to revise every other word I produced". The idea for a study of writer's block was sown. Fittingly, when he came to write the book, it also was subject to its subject-matter, as its introduction admits: "My fears of being swallowed by the topic, on the one hand, and of imposing too rigid and potentially limiting a framework, on the other, were precisely those recounted by blocked writers themselves."

Leader marshals a mass of evidence. Blockage comes in many forms. There is compulsive revision: Thomas Gray exhibited, according to Dr Johnson, the "fantastic foppery" of tinkering endlessly with each sentence. Other writers can perform fluently in one medium, yet be blocked in another: Coleridge, for instance, produced reams of criticism while unable to write a line of poetry.

Writer's block: an excuse for laziness, or a genuine disorder afflicting some of literature's finest?

Richard Morrison meets the author of a definitive new study

And there are those who can speak superbly but write nothing. "I know a brilliant and fluent lecturer who has great difficulty in writing articles or books," says Leader. "He suggested that I look again at Plato's *Dialogues*. The hostility expressed there about writing is very close to the fear people today have of writing: that somehow it is less authentic, easier to manipulate; that you cannot be sure of your audience or their response."

Of course, some sports take an uncharitable view. "Writer's block? Isn't that an excuse for being wet about deadlines?" snaps one distinguished literary editor. It is certainly a condition more often encountered in the groves of

Freud said that inhibitions are likely to occur 'as soon as writing... assumes the significance of copulation' – which probably rules out daily journalism

academe than in, say, the newsroom of a daily paper, where the only blocks available for unproductive reporters are probably the sort you put your head on.

Anthony Burgess's scepticism is typical: writer's block, he declared, is "too calculated to impress British writers who have to regard literary paralysis as a luxury".

Leader is prepared to concede the point that "writer's block is a term that grows out of a psychoanalytic culture which was never accepted in Britain as it was in America. There is a moral element in the distrust, because you could argue that what underlies blockage

is a refusal to face deficiency." Leader points out in the book that whereas "stuck in a rut" or "dried up" implies lack of imagination, the term "writer's block" neatly shifts the blame away from the writer on to some obstacle that may be removed. "The optimism that underlies the term," Leader explains, "underlies psychoanalysis in general. That is distrust by a certain branch of empirical, English commonsense culture."

If, however, an "excuse for being wet about deadlines" is needed, this book has a thousand. The reluctant writer could argue that, like the Romantic poets, he is struck dumb by "the burden of the past": a paralysing sense of being overawed by the genius of predecessors. A woman writer may claim that she has become blocked by "internalisation" of the social prejudice that acts against women becoming creative figures.

A male writer might base his blockage on the good old Oedipal notion of a father coming between him and his desire. Freud, who regarded creative artists as neurotics, and all creative writing as wish-fulfilment, is a kind of saint for skivers, since his theories offer so many potential inhibitions. However, he did say that inhibitions are likely to occur "as soon as writing... assumes the significance of copulation" – which probably rules out daily journalism.

But the best excuse of all for writer's block is that many famous writers suffered from it. As Gerard Manley Hopkins put it: "Birds build – but not I build." With syntax like that, Gerard definitely had a blockage problem. Leader assembles a formidable list of blocked writers: the despondent Joseph Conrad, the pragmatic Mark Twain ("when the tank runs dry you've only got to leave it alone and it will fill up again in time") and of course the introspective Wordsworth and Coleridge, who turned their blocks into poetry.

Leader traces the origin of the phrase "writer's block" back only to 1950. But the condition, if not the term, existed a hold on overwrought psychoanalytical minds long before that, and still does. "If you look in the personal columns of the *New York Review of Books*," says Leader, "you will find items along the lines of 'I've corresponded with a couple of these people, but their methods are theoretically



Zachary Leader: "My fears... were precisely those recounted by blocked writers themselves."

threadbare: 'cures' such as 'draw up a list of priorities'."

Serious psychoanalysts have tended, according to Leader, to regard writer's block as being "rooted in our earliest relations with the world". Perhaps Otto Rank offered the most seductive theories, not least because he was the psychoanalyst-in-waiting to Anaïs Nin and Henry Miller as they cavorted steamily round Paris in the 1920s. "I have always felt," Nin confided in Rank, "that there is something beyond lesbian-

ism, narcissism, masochism, etc." "Yes," replied Rank, with commendable coolness, "there is creation."

Rank linked writing to birth, with all the traumas that this implies: blocks may come from a conflict between "emergence and embeddedness", as Leader puts it. But Rank also reversed Freud's view, calling neurotics "failed artists" – and thus inaugurated the modern trend of regarding creativity as beneficial to mental health. "In a way," says Leader,

"the artist is the paradigm of health."

Leader believes that the book's ideas resonate into other spheres of creativity. "You would be surprised, when you write a book on writer's block, how many people want to tell you about lawyer's block or banker's block."

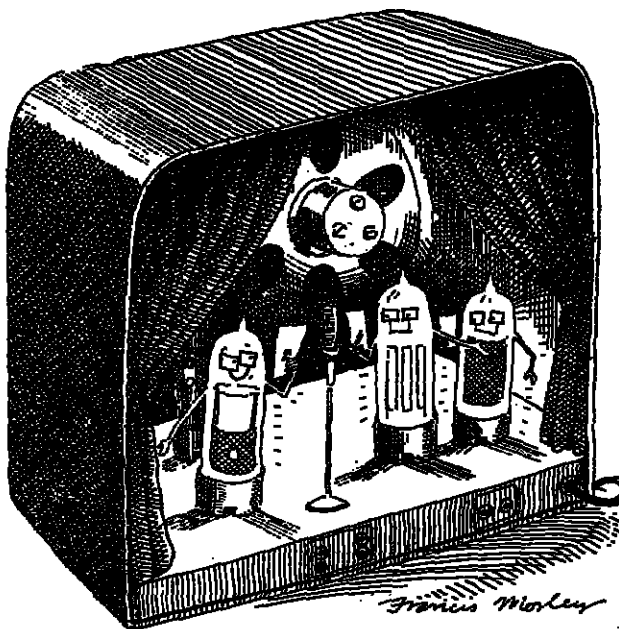
● *Writer's Block* is published by The Johns Hopkins University Press (£19.95). Zachary Leader will be reading extracts at 7pm this evening in Waterstone's bookshop, 68 Hampstead High Street, London NW3.

RADIO DRAMA

Hunger through the headphones

I was variously baffled, bewitched and scared out of my wits by a small boy by a fake-walnut cabinet where the names of exotic cities floated down a canal of winegum-coloured lights. This, despite the presence of an electric flex, was called wireless, and behind its speaker's bland treble dwelt vivid people from many lands and centuries. These people concocted byzantine intrigues or fell in love during spasms of birdsong or shot each other stone dead on heaving ship's decks and were never heard from again. Their lives had purpose, passion, structure, glamour.

Naturally, the period of which I write is distant enough to rate as primeval. Golden ages are the province of interior decorators: what is of interest here is the listening habit's permanent legacy of an intensely visual imagination, a mental dressing-up box complete with instant backdrops and meteorological effects. It never seemed odd to me when young that the voices in radio plays all had faces, and that the landscapes they inhabited were in some ways more real than the bejewelled garden beyond the living-room curtains. The inner eye is never so stimulated



as by a strict diet of aural information; but eventually it becomes greedy for sensation, which is why this page so rarely notices radio plays.

Of all the truisms utterable about radio drama, one beams out as the truest. It is that you can grandstand the End of the World for around the same cost as evoking a queue at a supermarket checkout – perhaps more cheaply, considering the beast called Equity. In a radio script the imagination is a child in a sweet shop. Any conceivable sequence or configuration of places and events may be conjured with conviction, which is to say with the internal plausibility demanded by the particular style of production.

As a result the aspirant playwright is faced with an embarrassment of freedom, which typically leads either to shapelessness or to paralysis. On the one hand the natural tendency to surrealism begets its own genre, which follows happily the extended thumb of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and is largely discountable on the ground that when anything can be allowed to happen, nothing special does. A metaphysical dialogue that devolves for no apparent reason in the oesophagus of Genghis Khan (this is not wilful exaggeration) reminds one that the word "experimental" usually means "conventional". As for the other tendency, the earthbound, one has only

to sample the standard offerings of *Afternoon Theatre*, a dog's home for toothless strays. We are not, here, in the realm of enchantment. Bluff detectives plod the shores; suburban families experience clinical woes; a chance encounter with a smouldering old flame recalls forgotten youth; schoolteachers embark on fraught relationships with their pupils; bookshop proprietors reminisce about dead relatives; lonely retired schoolteachers bump into their former charges, preferably with cancer, in bookshops.

At this, and more, forms the staple of commissioned drama on BBC radio, the "more" being supplied principally by an imperishable genre known as Important Historical Figures in Their Dotage, in which the voice of The Old Master can be intercut with scenes from his early life, strong on recalled mistresses and prospective biographers.

Nobody who has suffered a regular intake of fringe theatre will readily subscribe to the delusion that dramatic themes will always dictate treatment, that milieu necessarily conditions quality. There is no inherent reason why a play in any medium about a dyslexic social worker should not be a scorching masterpiece, any more than an elaborate fantasy about Shakespeare sojourning in Tuscany should not be a

catastrophic bore. And yet, just as in fringe theatre, one develops an instinct for recognising the type of play within a matter of minutes. One is rarely surprised.

Radio drama has no dearth of acting talent, and the standard of adaptations from stage and book remains as high as in the archives. Over Christmas and New Year, for sake of comparison, we were favoured with repeats of Ralph Richardson as Cyrano (1966) and Ian Charleson and Fenella Fielding in *Valmouth* (1975). And the blame for the current moribund state of radio drama cannot be laid at the door of commissioning editors, badgered yet again by unsolicited bright ideas for a drama serial about everyday folk in a West Country village. What has happened since my apprenticeship in the 1950s is that original radio plays have come to be written by radio fans who have bought the adman's lie that it is television that is the "sexy" medium. As a consequence their ambitions stay small, parochial, predictable, in thrall to the conventions of the short story.

The crucial, if banal, point is that the typical radio-play punter is someone capable of devoting to the practice precisely those times of day when that creature of myth, the person in the street, is otherwise engaged. This rather narrows the field, to the point where we are considering – barring pensioners, taxi drivers and tense reps not going very fast on the M25 – those who work at home, your correspondent included. We must also abandon the notion touted by archive photographs of the earnestly scrubbed middle classes settling down *en famille* to an improving broadcast from the Home Service, which is precisely the notion of radio drama as a shared experience. Radio as a solace for the solitary makes the appreciation of broadcast plays a peculiarly private activity analogous to reading. Forget nuclear families: think bedsit, think headphones on the pillow, think illustrators slaving to a deadline for a national newspaper. This is not the constituency which is going to man the barricades; it is a negligible audience and it is being neglected.

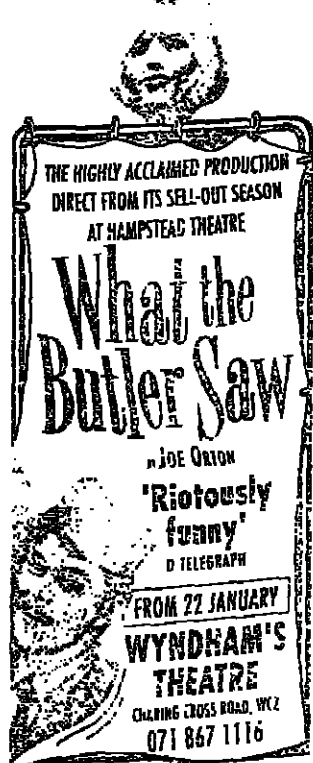
MARTIN CROPPER

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Mirabella



Drama of a secretive kind

Lyric Studio, Hammersmith

WHAT are we invited to learn from this excursion into the later life of two medieval lovers? Ten years before the play begins, Peter Abelard has married his beloved Heloise, but secretly, so as not to prejudice his climb up the church hierarchy. A child is born, called Pietro in Hugh Carr's play; his true name was Astrolabe, but there is only so much a modern audience will take. When the secret of their marriage becomes known, Abelard battles his wife for safety to a convent; her uncle hires ruffians to castrate Abelard, who tells Heloise to become a nun, while he becomes a monk.

The years roll by and it is now 1129. Abelard is in charge of an unruly abbey on the Brittany coast and Heloise the prioress of a convent by the Seine which happens to be in Abelard's gift. So he gives it to her and arrives one afternoon with mud on his gown to hand her the charter. Their states of mind are conveyed neatly enough by the words of greeting Carr allots them. "Peter, my dearest," says Heloise, gliding into the room. Abelard beetles his brows at her and then soberly

replies, "My dear sister in Christ". Everything Heloise does thereafter is implicit in that rapturous declaration: she loves him still and, having knocked back some goblets of the local dandelion wine, sets about demolishing his reserve. He tries to remain distant but gentility begins to break in. She recalls his love poems — "Oh, those nights in Paris?" — and in the face of his disclaimers tells him, "You could be so wrong about yourself". Meanwhile, in the garden, an 11-year-old boy is playing a pipe.

What is this play for? The author adds a pinch of incest to Heloise's childhood, but on the real enigma — Abelard's banishment of her to the convent — he offers no comment. When Abelard calls upon Heloise to abjure her love she falls flat on her face: she says nothing but he absolves her just the same. What are we to make of that?

The play's only discernible function is to enable two performers to kit themselves out in habits, though Karen Ford's starchy pleas as Heloise look centuries ahead of their time. The author asks of her little more than to suggest dissatisfaction, which I suppose she does, though Harry Landis's direction allows her to overplay the winsome miss, even to the point of swinging her hips.

Abelard's role at least offers the



Misdirected: Bernard Brown and Karen Ford in *Heloise and Abelard*

possibility of development, and Bernard Brown's growing voice, thin lips and eyes, sharp but dead, hint at the torment of a ruined man. But Carr gives him nowhere

enlightening to go. Drama, like the piping Astrolabe, never gets a look-in.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Nina Simone

IF NINA Simone has a reputation for being highly strung, the only part of her that fitted the description on this occasion was the coiffure. It had been violently wrenched up into a knotty bun that only someone with a lifetime's yachting experience would have the savvy to unravel.

Simone won more applause on

her entry, cosseted in what looked like the ex-coat of a big African cat, than most acts garner even on exit; and if this constituted a kind of deposit, she paid her audience back handsomely with an array of musical styles as dazzling as the spangly garment she modelled under the fake fur.

The audience was escorted from the down-the-line jazz of "Just in Time" through the rough-hewn blues of "I Put a Spell on You", the anguished soul of "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood", the showy cabaret of "Mississippi Lightning" and the calypso of

"Liberian Calypso" to the greatest eclectic trick of the lot, "Little Girl Blue" tripped out to the tune of "Good King Wenceslas". Simone has never, the Christmas carol seemed definitively to say, been a hostage to musical pigeonholing.

Whatever the idiom, the vulnerable voice moaned out a contrast to the robust plunking of her keyboard work. For most of the evening she compensated for the lack of a bass by instinctively veering towards the left-hand end of the grand piano, which suited some numbers better than others. Crammed to the rafters, the

venue did its best to put on an air of smoky intimacy to match the entertainment on offer. Simone stepped offstage three times, each time leaving behind standards she, unlike anyone else, has probably tired of — "Mr Bojangles", "My Baby Just Cares for Me" and "I Loves You Porgy".

She disappeared for the last time clutching a candle, twice repeating: "No war". Having had one audience quaking in its boots, she should, perhaps, be given another one with Saddam.

JASPER REES

BBC Henze Festival

WHILE others might say that the BBC's Henze Festival, which began last Thursday, is a lavish and elitist venture, it is in reality surely exactly the kind of project our national cultural station ought to be staging.

Of course it will make a loss, though perhaps the number of empty seats would have been fewer had the festival been more positively and broadly marketed. Yet, by and large, short shrift has been dealt to Henze's work in this country. We cannot seem to cope with the breadth of its range, nor with its thoroughness (Henze does occasionally explore an idea with Teutonic obsessiveness), and nor indeed with the fact that his music is so unrevolutionary.

This might surprise somebody aware of the rumour that the intended first performance of *The Raft of the Medusa* in 1968, Red flags, portraits of Che Guevara, student revolutionaries and riot police turned the event into a farce, and even in 1990 it appears that the work is still cursed. Both conductor and narrator had to be replaced at very short notice by Simon Joly and Omar Ebrahim respectively, and your own critic suffered a grotesque attack of food poisoning on his way to the concert. What I managed to catch back home on the radio suggested, however, a performance — in English — of immense dramatic force.

David Wilson-Johnson sounded particularly powerful, tortured with mental and physical pain. He also appeared bitterly

angry at the injustice of such ruthless class distinction, in the role of the sailor Jean-Charles. Ebrahim's narration, meanwhile, evoked the full horror of the 1816 Medusa shipwreck, and the soprano Beverly Morgan sounded suitably haunting as Death. The BBC Singers and Finchley Children's Music Group sang confidently and contributed much to the atmosphere, though, of course, one missed the emotional impact of the sight of them walking one by one from the side of the living to the side of the dead.

As an indictment of injustice, *The Raft of the Medusa* is effectively direct. Rather less biting and haunting are the exaggerated manners of the opera. The English Cat — staged at the Festival in Henze's own production made for the Montepulciano Cantieri last year.

The opera is improved by being shorter than when first shown, but in its dry piquancy and its baroque-like sequence of set

pieces it perhaps takes Stravinsky's refinement a little far. As always, though, there are some lovely sounds.

The cast was more or less the same as in Italy, with the notable exception of Neil Jenkins, who replaced Julian Pike in the role of Lord Puff. His singing and characterisation was about the sharpest of the evening; indeed, perhaps with a team of equivalent acting talent the opera's success might be less obvious.

JOHN Oakley-Tucker's Tom, for instance, appeared too schoolboyish, and his voice somewhat strained. Sally Harrison's Minette and Ellen Andresson's Babette were painted nicely enough, and Gordon Cowie's Arnold had the right rakish element, yet everything could have borne a touch more exaggeration. Simply wearing bigger tails and whiskers or turning the piece into more of a cartoon would have helped. Henze himself conducted the reliable Parnassus Ensemble.

Two other concerts provide invaluable opportunities to hear some unjustly neglected works. On Saturday, with the London Sinfonietta and Ingo Metzmacher bearing responsibility for the performances, the linking element of a diverse programme was the Austrian poet Ingeborg Bachmann, with whom Henze enjoyed a close working and personal relationship until her tragic death in a fire in 1973.

The lush Five Neapolitan Songs of 1956, which are dedicated to Bachmann, unearthed in Urban Maehring a young Swedish baritone of outstanding richness as well as music of unrivalled sensual beauty even among Henze's output. Then the Choral Fantasy of

1964 — sparsely scored settings of Bachmann's own texts sung here by eight members of the BBC Singers — showed a new level of expressive refinement.

Against this, the newly revised concert version of Henze's 1952 ballet, *The Idiot* — now called *Paraphrases on Dostoyevsky* — came as a disappointment. The unifying of Bachmann's texts (spoken by Jonathan Moore) with set musical pieces was not entirely convincing without the element of dance.

The previous evening the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra's concert with Markus Stenz had, it seemed, deliberately attempted to show the variety of Henze's language. No two works of his are more contrasting, for instance, than the colourful, immediate First Violin Concerto of 1947, played beautifully here by Kaja Blachar (son of the composer), and *Anytime* of 1960, an exercise for 11 strings, wind and percussion in a rich inspired by Allen Ginsberg's poem, *Howl*.

Nocturnes and Arias (1957), another Bachmann setting — two of her poems are interspersed between three instrumental pieces — rivalled the Five Neapolitan Songs in Christine Whitley's ravishing performance, though here the music's message is more of a universal than a personal love. The final piece was *Heliogabalus Imperator*, Henze's extravagant "allegoria per musica". This was a magnificent reading in every way, making complex things clear, and revealing — perhaps more than any other piece so far heard in the festival — the composer's prime motivations and conflicts.

STEPHEN PETTIT



Henze: unrevolutionary?

NEW RELEASES

CHILD'S PLAY 2 (PG): Depressing return of Chucky the homicidal doll, terrorising the same poor kid he tormented in the 1988 original. John Wood, director. Cannon Fulham Road (071 370 2636) or (071 370 2636) Whittles (071 370 2636).

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (PG): Dazzling epic of the American West, long-running series. Director John Wood. Cannon Fulham Road (071 370 2636) or (071 370 2636) Whittles (071 370 2636).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol Δ on release across the country.

ARACHNID (PG): Dazzling spiders rampage through a cozy Californian community. Lynne Rothfield. Empire (071 487 8888).

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (PG): Dazzling epic of the American West, long-running series. Director John Wood. Cannon Fulham Road (071 370 2636) or (071 370 2636) Whittles (071 370 2636).

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THEATRE GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol Δ on release across the country.

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BBC 1

- 6.00 CeeFax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando
8.50 Daytime UK presented by Adrian Mills in Manchester and Judi Spiers and Tim Grundy in Birmingham
9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Brainwave. Quiz hosted by Andy Craig 9.25 Dish of the Day prepared by Rosemary Moon
9.30 People Today. Reporter Mark Maciver, together with an interior design expert, takes on the challenge of transforming a room in a morning
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays 10.25 Rupert. Cartoon (r) 10.35 People Today. Including at 10.45 Health UK. Marilyn Lewis finds out about coping with arthritis
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Killy. Robert Killy-Sik and his studio audience discuss transplants 11.45 Before Noon. With Judi Spiers and Tim Grundy
12.00 News, regional and weather 12.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club. Fighting the fat 12.20 Scene Today. Including Tim Grundy's Video File 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (CeeFax) 1.50 Going for Gold
2.15 Film: *Code - Changing Habits* (1984). Suzanne Pleshette is a nurse. One of her patients is a man who has a heart of gold and arranges a theft to help save the nursery from financial ruin. Directed by George Englund. Northern Ireland: Open House 3.00 Best of British 3.25 The Flintstones
3.50 Bitta. Trash from around the house gets the recycling treatment 4.05 Hobart Wolf. Cartoon 4.15 Jackanory. Helena Bonham Carter with part two of *The Way to Sardinia* 4.25 Quick Draw McGraw. Cartoon 4.35 Now Then. Tony Gregory goes to West Hesterton in Yorkshire to visit the largest and longest-running archaeological dig in Europe
5.00 Newsworld 5.10 Grange Hill. Episode three of the 20-part drama series set in a London comprehensive school. (CeeFax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (CeeFax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anne Ford. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazine. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Holiday 91. Bill Buckley is off to the Yugoslavian Riviera, where he checks out what value for money there is to be had in Budva; and Kathy Taylor investigates a holiday for those who would prefer to do more (rather than less) cooking when they visit the Ballymore cookery school in County Cork. (CeeFax)
7.30 EastEnders. More dramas with the denizens of Albert Square. (CeeFax)
8.00 Dad's Army. Classic comedy with the elderly and eccentric Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard. (r). (CeeFax)
8.30 A Question of Sport. Bill Beaumont is joined by former world squash champion Martin Le Moignan and Scotland middlefielder Stuart McCall. Ian Botham gets assistance from Olympic 1500m silver medalist Peter Elliott and Nick Skelton, show jumping's former European champion. (CeeFax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Barker. (CeeFax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Spender. Newcastle is the setting for this uncompromising detective series with Jimmy Nail doing undercover work in his native town. (CeeFax) Wales: Week in Week Out 10.00 Spender
10.25 Film 90 with Barry Norman. Featured tonight are Clint Eastwood's latest cop movie *The Rookie*; *The Fool* based on the writings of Dickens's contemporary Henry Mayhew and starring Derek Jacobi; and the long-awaited *Cyrano de Bergerac*, with Gerard Philipe as the long-suffering romantic. Plus a report on the neglected state of the British film industry



Swept by rain and a hail of bullets: Powers Boothe (10.55pm)

- 10.55 Film: *Southern Comfort* (1981). Attractive swamp scenery but an otherwise unappealing movie about foamy National Guardsmen who insult the local Louisiana Cajuns to their cost. A confrontation in treacherous swampland ensues. Keith Canfield. Powers Boothe and Fred Ward get wet and dirty while Ward fills. Wales: Football - Merthyr Tydfil v Swansea 11.25 Film: *Southern Comfort* 1.05am Film 91; Northern Ireland: Open House 1.10-12.30am *Country and Lacey*
12.35am Weather. Wales: 1.35 News

BBC 2

- 8.00 News
8.15 Westminster. The latest from the Lords and Commons.
9.00 The Travel Show UK Mini Guides. Roger Wilkins visits the cathedral city of Wells (r)
9.05 Daytime on Two. For science teachers 9.30 GCSE German 9.45 Adopting a cat 10.00 For four and five-year-olds 10.15 Learning to read 10.40 Two different accounts of a playground incident 11.00 Using the wind 11.15 Factory pollution in Siberia 11.35 *About Time*, a science drama for seven to nine year olds 11.55 Rehearsing a musical 12.15 Designing and making models that can cross water 12.35 French for beginners 12.55 Effective communicating 1.20 Mr Benn 1.40 The story of a 19th century Welsh servant girl
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r) 2.15 Canvas. Alan Bennett returns to Leeds Art Gallery, which he visited as a boy (r) 2.35 See Hear! Magazine series for the hearing impaired
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Today's proceedings from the Commons, including the debate on the situation in the Gulf. Presented by Vivian White 3.50 News, regional news and weather
5.00 Advice Shop. How has the population of the steel town of Ravenscraig come to terms with the trauma of mass redundancy and long-term unemployment? *Advice Shop* reports from Scotland
5.30 Gardens by Design. David Stevens demonstrates how to add movement to a small, square plot (r). (CeeFax)
6.00 Film: *Bundle of Joy* (1956, b/w). Romantic musical comedy with Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher. At Christmas time a shop assistant is fired from her job, but things look up when she discovers an abandoned baby. Director Norman Taurog
7.40 *Black Britain*. Fighting Back. The third in a series of six programmes tracing the history of African and Caribbean people in Great Britain looks at discrimination and at how different generations of black families have responded to it
8.30 Food and Drink. With Chris Kelly, Michael Barry and Jill Goodlen. Antonio Carluccio cooks Sunday lunch for a shepherd in northern Spain. Co. Clare tastes some unusual foreign beers
9.00 Twin Peaks. The cult whodunit continues. One-Eyed Jacks becomes even more dangerous for Audrey, and David Palmer makes another horrifying discovery. Starring Kyle MacLachlan and Michael Ontkean. (CeeFax)



Anger at playground violence: head Geoff Sanders (8.50pm)

- 9.50 Culloden: Tough Times.
● CHOICE: This is a not a replay of the Scottish battle but a six-part documentary on the Culloden primary school in east London. Battles, as it happens, loom large in tonight's episode, which is about attempts to deal with violence in the playground. Shot mainly in fly-in-the-wall style, Diane Tammes's film looks unashamedly at a school which is seriously underfunded and has seen its Asian pupils increase from nothing to 35 per cent in five years. In a lower-class version of Joyce Grenfell's famous sketch, harassed teacher Jill falls Darren not to strangle Stuart and Mark to stop winding up Katie. Geoff, the head, gets tough when the same Mark lashes out at a dinner supervisor. Traditionalists may blench at small children calling teachers by the first names, but not at Culloden's commitment to discipline. Geoff is no shortstart. He is a tough, tough, and his anger is justified.
10.20 Building Sights. The first of 12 programmes in which well-known personalities choose their favourite 20th century buildings. The architect Sir Norman Foster makes an unusual choice - a Boeing 747 which he feels is "pure sculpture"
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine 11.55 Weather
12.00 Crickets. World Series Cup highlights. Richie Benaud presents the 12.00am Behind the Headlines. See 4.30. Ends at 1.25

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am
9.25 Saturday. Richard Madeley hosts the high-flying quiz show with participants from Aberdeenshire and Cheshire Hulme 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... John Stapleton hosts the peripatetic discussion programme
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series on family matters
12.05 Rod, Jane & Freddy 12.25 Home and Away 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather
1.20 Wish You Were Here... (r) 1.50 A Country Practice. Drama series set in rural Australia
2.20 Take the High Road. Soap set in a Scottish village 2.50 Give Us a Clue. Michael Parkinson presents the celebrity charades game with team captains Lionel Blair and Liza Goddard. Their teams comprise Thelma Barlow, Alan Gales, Adrienne Posta, Peter Baldwin, Leslie Grantham and Kenny Everett
3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 Families
3.55 Joanne Smith and The New Teacher 4.00 Rod 'n' Erno 4.15 The Return of Dogtanian
4.40 Children's Ward. Drama set in a young people's hospital ward. (Oracle)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz show for teenagers
5.40 News with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather
5.55 Thames Help with news of the Gresson Theatre Company
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale. Soap set in a Yorkshire village. (Oracle)
7.30 Thames Reports: Shutting Shop. Reporter Marcus Powell investigates the impact of the government's new Uniform Business Rate on shops in the King's Road, Chelsea
8.00 The Bill. Compulsive police drama series. (Oracle)
8.30 Strike It Lucky. The enthusiastic Michael Barrymore hosts the quiz show with computers
9.00 B.C.I.D.: In the Rough. Comedy drama series featuring two former Scotland Yard men who have retired to Spain, starring Alfred Molina and John Bird. (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Julia Somerville. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather



Cry for me Argentina: innocent victims of the junta (10.40pm)

- 10.40 Stolen Children: Argentina's Darkest War.
● CHOICE: An angry documentary somewhat in the style of John Piger reports on the children left orphaned by the Argentine junta. Claiming that it was saving the country from communism, the military's regime of 1976 to 1982 "disappeared" thousands of people already hostile to the state. Despite the persistent efforts of national and international campaigners, only a handful of the children have been returned to their families and the courts have been reluctant to help. With Tom McGuckin in the Piger role, the film accuses the present Argentine government of trying to sweep an appalling crime under the carpet. It also talks to mothers who survived the concentration camps, children who have resurfaced and families still looking. Twin boys who were missing 13 years ago are secretly filmed in the care of a former police officer, described as a sexual psychopath
11.40 Prisoner: Call Block H
12.30am This Week - 35 Years on the Front Line. New series with Bryan Magee presenting a selection of award-winning documentaries made by *This Week* during the past 35 years. Tonight's programme includes an interview with Bertrand Russell and James Cameron on the Berlin Wall
1.00 Video View with Mariella Frostrup
1.30 How Was it for You? Chirpy Harry Kelly asks Faith Brown, Leslie Crowther and Beryl Bainbridge about the influence of their parents on their lives
2.00 60 Minutes. Top-notch news magazine from the States.
2.30 Mike Spence's Sports: The Downside Blues Band (r)
4.00 Entertainment UK
5.00 ITN Morning News with Brenda Bruce. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Art of Landscape. Film of the natural world accompanied by music
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme
12.30 Business Daily presented by Susannah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 Film: *Condemned* (1925, b/w). The penal colony of Devil's Island provides the setting for this tale of imprisonment and forbidden love. Ronald Colman stars as the handsome Farsian (the) who falls in love with the governor's wife (Anne Harding). Colman's impressive performance in his second film won him an Oscar nomination. Directed by Wesley Ruggles
3.40 Quinosis. Series of gags by cartoonist Quino animated by Cuban film-maker Juan Padrón
3.45 Third Wave. Magazine series for the over-55s. Includes a look at a group from Scotland who have produced their own video leisure opportunities. (Teletext)
4.30 Countdown with Richard Whiteley and Hayley Mills
5.00 African Jigsaw. The pupils of St Augustine's RC high school, Basingstoke, Lancs, have written a musical highlighting the problems faced by shanty-town dwellers in Africa
5.30 How Wars End. The Congress of Vienna 1815. Historian A. J. P. Taylor looks at the restoration of the map of Europe after the defeat of Napoleon (r)
6.00 A Different World. Perceptive comedy chronicling the ups and downs in the lives of students at a predominantly black American high school
6.30 Remote Control. An off-beat combination of quiz and comedy
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zehava Badawi. (Teletext)
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 The Secret Life of Machines: The Internal Combustion Engine. Tim Hunkin looks at the internal combustion engine, discovering how and what makes it work. The major problem with the engine is its emission of environmentally unfriendly gases. Although catalytic converters are helping, it will never be possible to make exhausts harmless
8.30 Survival Factor: The Headbangers. From Anglia's *Survival* team, a film giving a rare insight into the great spotted woodpecker which can pound away at a tree trunk 18 times a second with enough force to crack a nut. This revealing documentary shows the bird's life history and how it is able to batter away at trees without getting a splitting headache (r). (Teletext)



Sleeping Beauty rediscovered: Margaret Fonteyn (8.00pm)

- 9.00 Without Walls: J'Accuse - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Sleeping Beauty Rediscovered.
● CHOICE: Rustling canes of negative film discovered in a Norfolk barn provides *Without Walls* with the chance of showing for the first time colour footage of Margot Fonteyn dancing one of her most famous roles in *The Sleeping Beauty*. The material was shot in the late Sixties for a feature film which had to be abandoned through lack of money. The surviving footage includes a virtually complete first act, which has been sympathetically edited and fitted to the music score recorded by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. One of Fonteyn's successors, Fiona Chadwick, provides a critical context. In a second item *Without Walls* continues its iconoclastic J'Accuse strand by turning to Mozart. The assault is led by the critic Nicholas Karyon, not on Mozart's music (heaven forbid) but on attempts to romanticise him and elevate his genius above his humanity. The item provides a lively antidote to the bicentennial hype
10.00 Eurocops: The Jackson Trilogy. B3fore beginning the new series Channel 4 repeats the British episodes from the last series, which features John Benfield in a powerful performance as Detective Constable George Jackson, a man who is constantly struggling with his professional and personal life (r)
11.00 Town & Country. Series presented by singer/songwriter John Peel reflecting the increasing international popularity of country music. Featuring Foster & Lloyd and Rosanne Cash
12.05am Parliament Programme Special - the Gulf Crisis. Sue Cameron presents an extended summary of today's (Tuesday) debate in the House of Commons on the situation in the Gulf. Ends at 3.00

ANGLIA

- As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 *Anglia News* 7.30-8.00 *Food Guide* 12.40am *Anglia News* 1.30-2.00 *Anglia News* 2.30-3.00 *Anglia News* 3.30-4.00 *Anglia News* 4.30-5.00 *Anglia News*

BORDER

- As London except: 1.50pm *Santa Barbara* 2.20-2.50 *Cover Story* 3.10-3.40 *Home and Away* 3.50-4.20 *Home and Away* 4.30-4.50 *Home and Away* 5.00-5.30 *Home and Away* 5.40-6.10 *Home and Away* 6.20-6.50 *Home and Away* 7.00-7.30 *Home and Away* 7.40-8.10 *Home and Away* 8.20-8.50 *Home and Away* 9.00-9.30 *Home and Away* 9.40-10.10 *Home and Away* 10.20-10.50 *Home and Away* 11.00-11.30 *Home and Away* 11.40-12.10 *Home and Away* 12.20-12.50 *Home and Away* 1.00-1.30 *Home and Away* 1.40-2.10 *Home and Away* 2.20-2.50 *Home and Away* 3.00-3.30 *Home and Away* 3.40-4.10 *Home and Away* 4.20-4.50 *Home and Away* 5.00-5.30 *Home and Away* 5.40-6.10 *Home and Away* 6.20-6.50 *Home and Away* 7.00-7.30 *Home and Away* 7.40-8.10 *Home and Away* 8.20-8.50 *Home and Away* 9.00-9.30 *Home and Away* 9.40-10.10 *Home and Away* 10.20-10.50 *Home and Away* 11.00-11.30 *Home and Away* 11.40-12.10 *Home and Away* 12.20-12.50 *Home and Away* 1.00-1.30 *Home and Away* 1.40-2.10 *Home and Away* 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Jobs for graduates cut by recession

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

THE recession may create a long-term decline in already diminishing job opportunities for graduates.

An assessment of graduate employment prospects for 1991, by higher-education careers officers and the Association of Graduate Recruiters, whose members are mainly in large firms, foresees more graduates chasing a similar number of jobs to last year. Those with general degrees are expected to face most difficulty.

Helen Perkins, the association chairman and head of management development at Price Waterhouse (Europe), said that there was particular concern for the large number of 1990 graduates who were encouraged by boom conditions to take a year off. Stronger competition for jobs is likely to leave few vacancies for those who postpone looking for work until next summer.

The annual salary and vacancy survey, carried out by the association and the Institute of Manpower Studies at Sussex university, found the employment market for graduates contracting slightly overall, although the non-industrial sector continued to expand. Industry took 13 per cent fewer graduates in 1990 with a corresponding growth in other areas. Vacancy lists published by the Central Services Unit, the national graduate employment service, are more than 25 per cent down on last year.

Ms Perkins said if last year's experience is repeated, there could be an overall downturn of 10 per cent. She said that the attention of employers was switching from higher education to the post-16 age group, and the survey showed a further narrowing of the gap between universities and polytechnics in employer preferences. While some universities have seen a decline of more than 30 per cent in "milk round" bookings, several polytechnics report increases.

Computer-related work has shown the sharpest fall in current vacancies. Chemical engineering and the electronics manufacturing industries are also in decline, while the Institute of Chartered Accountants reported a decrease of more than 4 per cent in graduate recruitment during 1990.

Keith Dugdale, the chairman of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, said that mature students, who had been attracted into non-vocational subjects during the recent expansion of higher education, would be the first to suffer if employers did make cuts.

Geography ruling, page 2
Partners at school, page 10



Vilnius mourns: candles being placed yesterday at the spot where protesters died beneath Soviet tanks

Gorbachev 'did not order killings'

Continued from page 1
decision to use force or about the constitutionality of the decision. Marshal Yarov insisted that the regular army had been used only to "recover" army property and interior ministry troops had been used to "recover" communist party and state property. But the regular army was used in the action against the broadcasting station.

Mr Gorbachev said that the order to deploy the army had been issued by the commander of the Vilnius garrison, after consultation with the deputy commander of the Baltic military district. The decision was taken, he said, after an appeal from the "National Salvation Committee" to the garrison commander. The appeal was said to have followed attempts by a group of 100 members of the Lithuanian parliament and others to have what

they regarded as inflammatory broadcasts taken off the air. Mr Pugo said that 70 members of the delegation had been beaten when they tried to enter the broadcasting station.

The provocation of the "National Salvation Committee" was a repeated concern of deputies during the debate. Mr Gorbachev told journalists that he had received thousands of requests to institute direct presidential rule, but had declined to do so.

Asked whether the president had given the order for the use of force, Mr Pugo, who has been in office little more than a month, told parliament that "no one gave any command from the centre". Marshal Yarov said, however, that there was no reason to blame the regional commander. "No one in the army uses arms illegally. If the president told the

defence ministry to enforce an order, do you think that the army should not have obeyed that order? Of course not."

Mr Gorbachev urged parliament to suspend judgement until a delegation from the Council of the Federation had reported its findings. The delegation includes the leaders of Armenia and Belorussia.

The Latvian republican government began an emergency meeting last night. Karlis Licitis, the minister of government affairs, said he was convinced the attempt would be made today to topple the government. Streets were piled high with makeshift barricades to repel an assault.

In Vilnius, thousands of Lithuanians, many sobbing, filed past the bodies of 10 of those killed when the Soviet paratroopers backed by tanks stormed a television tower in Vilnius on Sunday.

Waiting for the inevitable in the desert

Continued from page 1

Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria — added with a gesture of resignation: "How can we and the Egyptians fight on the same side as the Israelis? It is impossible."

The increasing number of foreign residents leaving Cairo reflected the growing conviction there that Israel will become involved and thus transform the whole nature of the war. Many ordinary Egyptians are open about their wish to see Egypt break the 1979 peace treaty and declare war on Israel if Israeli jets bomb Baghdad. "Everything could be turned upside down inside the alliance if Israel is sucked in," claimed one employee of the state airline, Egypt Air, one of the few still flying reasonably regular services in the region. "How could any of our people fight on the side of the Jews? It is not something that we could do."

In Saudi Arabia, the possible ramifications of a Middle East war without equal were being largely overlooked as plans hatched over the past few months were being put into operation. An Egyptian official said that a large number of Saudi residents had flown to refuge in Egypt.

The main hotels in eastern Saudi Arabia now feature large signs indicating newly-refurbished bomb shelters. In many places, dress rehearsals for air raids, possibly involving chemical weapons, have been hastily organised and large numbers of allied war planes and helicopters are to be seen in the air overhead.

The civil defence exercises have suddenly driven home to many Saudi families the reality of impending conflict. In 70 civil defence offices in the capital, Riyadh, gas masks were being distributed after payment of 100 Saudi riyals into special deposit accounts set-up by banks. Saudis were told yesterday to practise wearing their gas masks in front of their families to teach them how they should be used.

Despite the precautions, there remains widespread ignorance of exactly how people should react to any chemical attack, expected to be mounted by Iraq.

Whining over gifts as smog descends

Political sketch

IT WAS the first day back in the Commons. Like the prophet Jeremiah, Tam Dalyell lamented his vision of a Middle East enveloped by "a petrochemical smog".

Others had hardly lifted their eyes from the discarded Christmas gift-wrapping. None of the boys and girls at Westminster seemed grateful for presents brought by the old year. Yesterday was a string of complaints about existing toys, and requests for new ones.

Andrew Mitchell (C, Gedling) made a generous start, prefacing Question One (to the transport secretary) with the hope that "You, Mr Speaker, and your staff will have a happy new year... the young man paused, the better to underline this remarkable gesture, then spoilt it: "... in which I catch your eye many times." Then he put in an early bid to the secretary of state. Could he have a bypass for Gedling, please?

Malcolm Rifkind (the new transport secretary and ex-Scottish secretary) having just successfully bypassed the whole of Scotland, previously blocking his political career, looked kindly on Gedling's plea, but reminded us that the county council had a say. As everyone knows, if you give one boy a present, the others will want one too. Up jumped Michael Lord (C, Suffolk Central), dissatisfied with his presents so far. He wanted two bypasses, for what sounded like "Rickingham" and "Botesdale" — but Mr Lord did not give us the spelling.

Ronnie Fearn (Lib-Dem, Southport) did. His train-set had failed to please, and he wanted an entire railway service, for — "I'll spell it out," he droned relentlessly: "B-u-r-r-o-u-g-h."

Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolton), began whining that they needed a bypass in Glapwell, and elsewhere in Derbyshire, too. This encouraged Andrew Bennett (Lab, Denton & Reddish) to lodge a squeaky request for better transport for the whole of Manchester.

Like a mildly aggrieved dad,

Roger Freeman (the minister answering) reminded him that Manchester had a new generation of British Rail trains "commencing service today", a new metro-link under construction (for which the taxpayer was paying £50 million) and a new rail-link to the airport due to open next year.

The Manchester boys were not satisfied. Complaints came thick and fast, prompting the enormous Geoffrey Dickens (C, Littleborough & Saddleworth) to roar his disapproval. The government's generosity to Manchester and its airport, he said, "speaks volumes". "My hon friend," Mr Freeman said gratefully of Mr Dickens, "speaks volumes" himself.

Hm. *Voluble*, yes; *voluble*, certainly; and *voluminous* would be an understatement. Placed in the scales against 36 volumes of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Mr Dickens tips the balance in weight if not in wisdom. Moreover, Dickens certainly speaks at volume. Pitched against a pair of state-of-the-art 100W RMS speakers, his woofers out-woof and his tweeters out-tweet anything Bang & Olufsen can throw at us. Ah, if quantity were all!

Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) had pursued his socialist research to a disturbing conclusion: if you make available something people want, they use it. The trouble with the M25, he said, was that demand kept expanding to match availability. The solution? "Close it down," he thought.

But back to Manchester airport, where MPs were discussing its readiness to receive war casualties. Mr Freeman grows more famous by the day for his disquisition on over-dramatised problems facing his department. Yesterday he provided us with a new definition of a Gulf war. In Freemanpeak, this will be known as "the coming rather tense period".

A profound petrochemical smog descended upon the Chamber.

MATTHEW PARRIS

One dead in 50-vehicle crash on M1

ONE person died and 10 others were in hospital last night after 50 vehicles were involved in a series of crashes on the M1.

Wrecked vehicles were spread over more than half a mile on both carriageways near Chesterfield, Derbyshire. Police said there had been freezing fog and ice patches on the road before the crashes.

Thirty-five cars and 15 heavy goods vehicles were involved and one, thought to have been a light van, burst into flames.

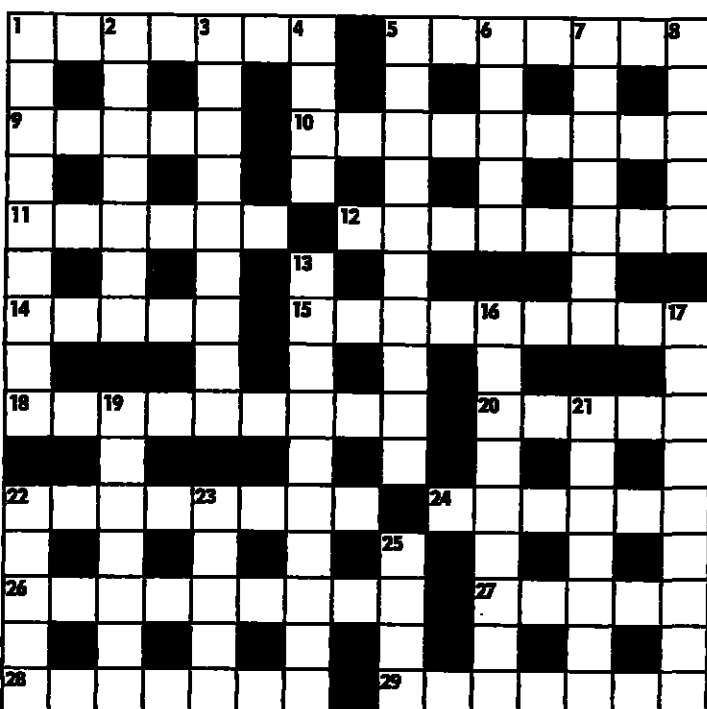
Police said one lane of the southbound carriageway was later opened to traffic after long jams built up, but it was expected that the clearing of wreckage would take several hours. Vehicles littered both carriageways at Heath, near Chesterfield, closing a 15-mile section of the motorway in both directions.

The first crash happened in the afternoon on the northbound carriageway when several vehicles collided in fog. As rescue services

freed motorists from the wreckage, a number of vehicles on the southbound carriageway collided. A third crash happened on the southbound carriageway a few hundred yards away. Three hours after the first crash, rescue workers were still working to free an injured motorist.

Police said: "It appears a blanket of freezing fog suddenly dropped on to the motorway, but cleared just as quickly, leaving a scene of havoc."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,503



- ACROSS**
- Many tease girl about being a slowcoach (7).
 - Side-effects of quarrel (4,3).
 - All the world will be in love with... "R and I" (5).
 - Revolver to use when approaching big game (9).
 - Protection for the prize (6).
 - Awful dream about our car, perhaps (8).
 - Clean new point of view (5).
 - Stars of University arts society — comparatively unimportant (4,5).
 - Sweetheart — sweetheart in New York — clever and delightful (9).
 - Remaining false (5).
 - Unduly push artist the Italian way... (8).
 - ... a person of distinction, too (2,4).
 - Foretold by boy, after English
- DOWN**
- Stupid attendant in the lift (4,6).
 - Quite a long way overweight — an important stage in life! (9).
 - Good customer takes advert out of *The Lady* as a rule (9).
 - Woodwork put together on oriental lines (7).
 - Train that is involved in dubious form of selling (7).
 - Fleet attack includes first stage of *Polaris* (5).
 - Soldiers with foreign terms of reference (5).
 - Girl squeezing in at the entrance (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,502

LABORATORY EPIC
U A U H R A
D I N I G R O O M T E R N
O K O N D P M D
T I F C R E D U L I T Y
C N T O B T E F
H O G S H E A D L A U R E L
I E T C S
C H A I N S G O L D S U S
H C T S U C P S
E S C A L A T I O N
T A U T I N D I A N F I L E
E M Z E I A S
R A T E F A I R Y T A I L S

Concise Crossword, page 13

WEATHER

frosty start with freezing fog in places. The fog will clear slowly to give a dry day. Northern Ireland and north and west Scotland will also be dry, although with rather a lot of cloud. Rather cold generally, especially in the freshening breeze which will reach gale force in exposed parts of the north and north-west. Outlook: Mainly dry. Night frost.

MIDDAY: 1st-finder, 2nd-drizzle, 3rd-fog, 4th-sun, 5th-clear, 6th-rain, 7th-fair, 8th-cloud, 9th-mist	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humidity	Pressure
Aberdeen	13	SE 15	100	95	1012
Amsterdam	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Antwerp	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Birmingham	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Bombay	28	SE 15	100	95	1012
Boston	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Brighton	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Bristol	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Cardiff	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Cebu	28	SE 15	100	95	1012
Colony Bay	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Cork	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Edinburgh	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Essex	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Exeter	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Gloucester	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Guernsey	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Hastings	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Hull	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Humberside	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Leeds	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
London	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Lowestoft	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Manchester	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Marine	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Newcastle	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Newquay	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Nottingham	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Northwich	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Perth	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Plymouth	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Poole	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Portsmouth	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Reading	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Sheffield	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Southampton	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Stirling	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Sunderland	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Torquay	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Warrington	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Wexford	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Widnes	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Worcester	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Wrexham	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Yarmouth	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
York	12	SE 15	100	95	1012

* denotes figures are latest available

ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-A41 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheaper rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

England, Wales and much of southern Scotland will have a

frosty start with freezing fog in places. The fog will clear slowly to give a dry day. Northern Ireland and north and west Scotland will also be dry, although with rather a lot of cloud. Rather cold generally, especially in the freshening breeze which will reach gale force in exposed parts of the north and north-west. Outlook: Mainly dry. Night frost.

MIDDAY: 1st-finder, 2nd-drizzle, 3rd-fog, 4th-sun, 5th-clear, 6th-rain, 7th-fair, 8th-cloud, 9th-mist	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humidity	Pressure
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Cebu	28	SE 15	100	95	1012
Colony Bay	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Cork	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Edinburgh	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Essex	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Exeter	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Gloucester	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Guernsey	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Hastings	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Hull	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Humberside	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Leeds	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
London	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Lowestoft	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Manchester	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Marine	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Newcastle	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Newquay	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Nottingham	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Northwich	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Perth	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Plymouth	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Poole	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Portsmouth	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Reading	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Sheffield	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Southampton	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Stirling	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Sunderland	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Torquay	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Warrington	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Wexford	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Widnes	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Worcester	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Wrexham	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
Yarmouth	12	SE 15	100	95	1012
York	12	SE 15	100	95	1012

* denotes figures are latest available

REGIONAL WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Dorset & Dorset	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	706
Herts & Essex	707
Northampton, Cambs	708
West Mid & Shropshire & Cheshire	709
Strope, Hereford & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Leics & Humberside	713
Derby & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N.W. England	716
N.E. England	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
S.W. Scotland	719
W. Central Scotland	720
E. & Fife/Lothian & Borders	721
E. Central Scotland	722
Grampian & E. Highlands	723
N.W. Scotland	724
Orkney, Shetland	725
N. Ireland	726

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheaper rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

FORECAST

London 4.20 pm to 7.50 am
Edinburgh 4.10 pm to 8.30 am
Manchester 4.10 pm to 8.17 am
Perthshire 4.40 pm to 8.15 am

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 19-23
● LAW 24,25
● SPORT 30-34

BUSINESS

TUESDAY JANUARY 15 1991

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Tootal's chief executive resigns

GEOFFREY Maddrell, chief executive at Tootal Group, the textile company, has resigned. His departure has raised speculation of an early bid from Coats Viyella, which made an agreed but unsuccessful bid for Tootal in 1989 and retains a near-30 per cent interest.

John Craven, Tootal's chairman, said the departure was not unexpected. He played down suggestions that the resignation cleared the path for an early merger with Coats Viyella. "There are no talks in progress and, as far as I am aware, no talks in prospect."

Analysts noted that Mr Maddrell's resignation came two weeks before Tootal's year-end. BZW, the stockbroker, cut its forecast for the year to end-January from £35 million to £28 million pre-tax. Mr Craven said that the results would contain no "black holes", but added that current difficult trading conditions would inevitably have an impact. Tootal's shares were unchanged at 68p, while Coats fell 3p to 100p.

Mr Craven admitted that Tootal's relationship with its biggest shareholder needed to be improved. "It is an unsatisfactory situation whereby one of our major competitors is sitting there with 30 per cent of the capital."

Since the 1989 agreed merger between the two companies fell apart, relations have cooled considerably. Improving that relationship was made top priority by Mr Maddrell's successor, Mr Anthony Haggood. Mr Haggood said his aim was to improve Tootal's commercial relationship with Coats Viyella and not to rush into a merger.

Comment, page 21

Ellis rises 37%

Ellis & Everard, the chemicals distributor, increased pre-tax profits 37 per cent to £10.6 million during the six months to the end of October, reflecting the benefit of acquisitions. Earnings rose 7 per cent to 9.6p a share after last year's three-for-one rights issue. The interim dividend rises 6 per cent to 1.8p.

Tempos, page 21

THE POLICE

US dollar 1.9055 (-0.0020)
German mark 2.9420 (+0.0187)
Exchange index 94.2 (+0.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1627.9 (-18.1)
FT-SE 100 2080.8 (-25.3)
New York Dow Jones 2468.56 (-32.93)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 23213.23 (-27.79)
Closing Prices... Page 23
Major indices and major changes Page 22

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month interbank 14.1%
3-month eligible bills 13.1%
US: Prime Rate 9 1/4%
Federal Funds 6 1/4%
3-month Treasury bills 6.05-6.05%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £1.9055
C: DM 2.9420
C: DM 2.9420
C: Sfr 1.2832
C: FF 9.9005
C: FF 9.9005
C: Yen 256.95
C: Yen 256.95
C: Index 92.0
ECU 10.85070 SDR 10.741781
E: ECU 1.447450 E: SDR 1.348106

GOLD

London: Fixing: AM \$395.25 (PM \$398.60)
Close \$397.25-397.75 (E208.30-208.80)
New York: Close \$400.15-400.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) ... \$29.40 bbl (\$25.70)
Denotes latest trading price

FOURTH RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.545	2.565
Austria Sch	2.530	2.550
Belgium Fr	2.530	2.550
Canada \$	2.530	2.550
Denmark Kr	11.81	11.89
Finland Mk	10.37	10.45
France Fr	2.530	2.550
Germany DM	3.07	3.09
Greece Dr	15.26	15.34
Hong Kong \$	1.145	1.155
Ireland Pt	2.530	2.550
Italy Lira	2.530	2.550
Japan Yen	11.81	11.89
Netherlands Gld	3.07	3.09
Norway Kr	2.530	2.550
Portugal Esc	191.75	192.25
Spain Ptas	161.75	162.25
Sweden Kr	11.81	11.89
Switzerland Fr	2.530	2.550
Turkey Lira	1.885	1.895
USA \$	30.00	30.00
Yugoslavia Dnr	23.00	23.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.0 (November)

Governor rules out rates cut as retail sales grow

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, has ruled out any cut in interest rates until the markets are convinced that Britain is committed to price stability. His remarks came as official figures showed a surprise rebound in retail sales in December.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said businesses could best protect themselves from hard times by taking seriously the authorities' determination to subdue inflation, and by seeing the exchange-rate mechanism as a fact of life when setting wages and prices.

His speech in Glasgow to the Institute of Bankers in Scotland added weight to the campaign John Major, the prime minister, and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, have

been waging to stress the government's commitment to keeping sterling squarely within its ERM bands, with no devaluation.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said: "If this message and its implication are fully understood, then we can have what we really want — namely both lower interest rates and a permanently stronger economy — more quickly and at less cost."

The pound ended trading fourth from the bottom of the ERM parity grid. Against the mark, it put on nearly 2 pence to 2.9421, compared with 2.9232, on Friday. The trade-weighted index jumped 0.5 to 94.2.

With businesses facing a "very difficult environment", the governor said he was well aware that for many people lower interest rates, or a lower exchange rate for sterling,

seemed the obvious course. But it had been tried in the past, and failed. He said: "The only way to achieve a durable strengthening in the domestic economy is by subduing inflation first." He said to lower interest rates prematurely would seriously damage the credibility of the policy and run the risk of allowing inflationary pressures to revive.

Retail sales surged 1.9 per cent in December to achieve the biggest monthly rise since May 1989, provisional figures from the Central Statistical Office showed. Evidence of a shopping spree was greeted with disbelief, however, by economists, who saw the figures as an aberration that made scant difference to the gloomy outlook for retailers. The forecasts had been for a modest fall in sales in December after November's 0.8 per cent drop.

The volume index of retail sales was set at 122.7 in December after seasonal adjustment, after 120.4 in November and 121.3 in October. In value terms, sales last month were up 5 per cent on December last year.

The producer price data showed manufacturers raising their prices by 0.2 per cent in December to give an annual rise of 5.8 per cent, after 5.9 per cent in the year to November. The cost of raw materials and fuel rose 1.5 per cent in December, but was 3.1 per cent below the same month in 1989. The year-on-year fall in November was 2.6 per cent.

● The latest Confederation of British Industry survey points to slack December sales and the first fall for eight years in January.

Comment, page 21

Late bill payments worsening says CBI

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE survival of nearly one in five small firms in Britain is under threat because of the late payment of bills, according to a joint survey by the Confederation of British Industry and Cork Gully, the insolvency specialists.

The survey showed that the practice is worsening and puts British firms, already suffering from the recession, at a significant cost disadvantage to other European countries.

The findings prompted Sir Brian Corby, CBI president, to write to his members urging them to start paying on time.

The survey covered 400 small and medium-sized firms.

Tom O'Connor, chairman of the CBI's Small Firms Council, said the last survey, four years ago, showed one in ten smaller firms suffered serious setbacks from late payment. "Now nearly one in five believes the problem is threatening the viability of their operations," he said.

The CBI opposes legislation to improve payment periods, saying such a move would provoke more problems than it would solve. Many smaller firms, however, would be keen to see changes in the law.

Sir Brian wrote: "While to some firms a policy of paying bills after the due date may appear to be a simple means of easing financial pressures, it has to be recognised that it is a clear breach of contract." He said it could be in nobody's interest if an otherwise sound and valued supplier went to the wall.

Steve Hill, technical partner with Cork Gully, said if a business with a turnover of £2 million allowed its customers an extra month's credit, it had to find £160,000 of extra working capital each month. At current interest rates that could cost £29,000 a year. "That could make the difference between success or failure for a number of firms."

The survey showed large and small companies as equal offenders, but that small firms often feel inhibited about taking a strong line for fear of losing important customers.

A statutory right to interest on outstanding debts is backed by a large majority of small and medium-sized businesses, the survey showed.

Late Payment of Trade Debts: CBI Publication Sales, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU; £10.

Oil soars \$3 as war fears depress shares

By MARTIN BARROW, WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, AND COLIN CAMPBELL

OIL prices soared more than \$3 to \$32 a barrel and bulk petrol prices climbed \$34 a tonne, putting pressure on oil companies to increase forecourt prices again as tonight's deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait approaches.

In what dealers now see as the countdown to war in the Gulf, share prices fell in Europe and America and the price of gold and the dollar, traditional havens for investors in times of trouble, rose.

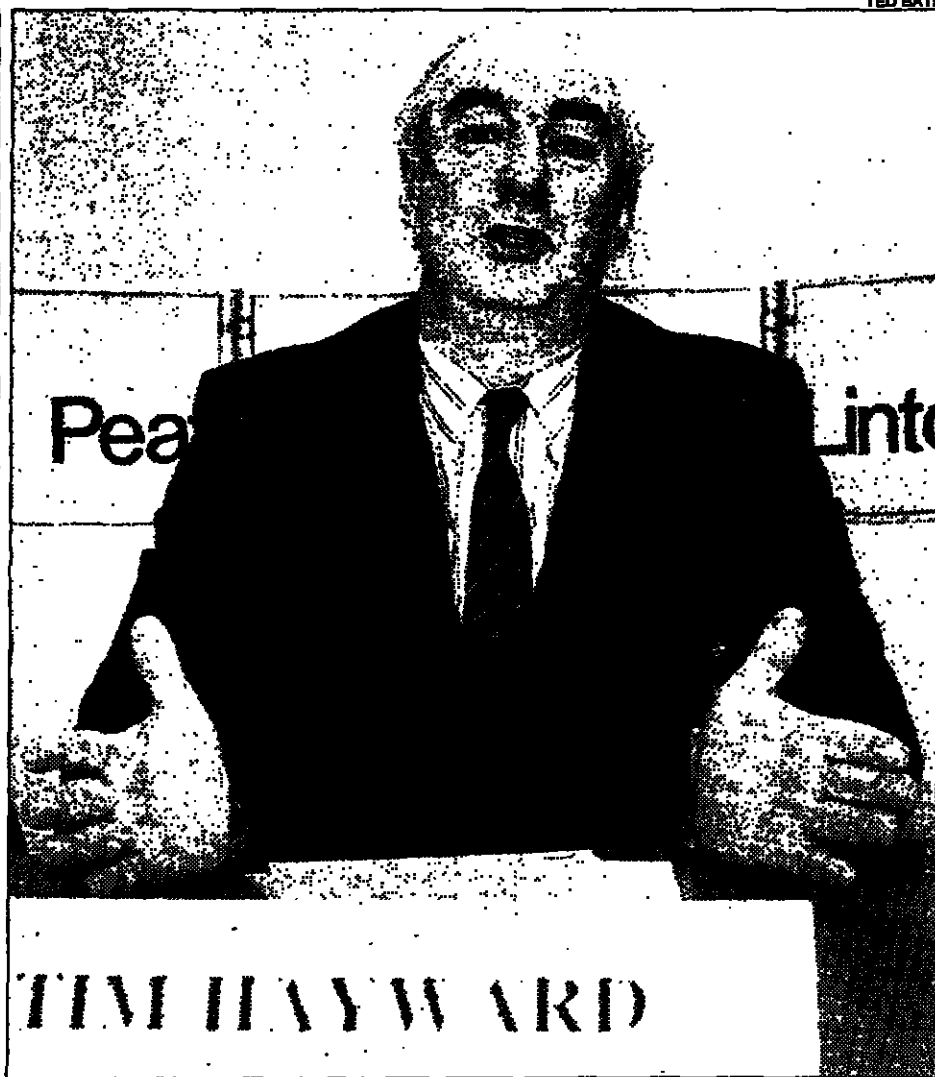
Increased tension in the Baltic republics was also blamed for the rise in precious metal prices and the fall in share prices, especially in Germany, where businesses are more exposed to any

reversal of Soviet economic reforms. The DAX index of German shares dropped 3.9 per cent to 1,327.80, its lowest close for almost two years, in hectic trading. London share prices fell sharply with the FT-SE 100 index falling 25.3 points, or 1.2 per cent, to 2,080.8 points.

Gold closed in London at \$397.75 an ounce, up \$6.75 from Friday but below a high of \$399.50. In the American futures markets, March gold was \$7.20 up at \$400.50 an ounce having touched \$402.50 — the highest since October.

Analysts said February gold has the potential to rally towards \$415 and possible to \$425 an ounce.

In London the benchmark February Brent crude, which closed at \$25.67 on Friday,



'Investigation may be limited': Tim Hayward, one of the Levitt liquidators

Lease on box at Arsenal one of few Levitt assets

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE lease on a box at the Arsenal football ground worth £100,000 is one of the few identifiable and saleable assets in the Levitt Group of companies, which was placed in liquidation last month owing about £40 million.

Liquidators from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock delivered the news to two groups of creditors yesterday, those from Levitt Group and The Levitt Group (Holdings), and to rub salt into the wound they suggested creditors may have to contribute money to a fighting fund to pay for a full investigation into the company's affairs by Peat Marwick.

Tim Hayward, one of the liquidators, said: "The investigation may be somewhat limited because there are no funds to pursue it. Creditors and maybe the regulators may wish to put up money to continue the investigation, which has already cost in excess of £100,000."

Mr Hayward also suggested the Investors Compensation Scheme might like to contribute to a fund because it may save it money eventually, considering the amount of claims it may have to satisfy.

Roger Levitt, founder and chairman of the Levitt group of companies, was charged last month with two counts of theft totalling £665,000. He was remanded on £500,000 bail. The liquidators said there were "unlikely to be any significant funds available for creditors" because it appeared that assets amounted to only a few hundred thousand pounds.

According to the report presented to the meetings, Levitt Group has £20 million of assets, but only £104,000 is expected to be realised from their sale compared with liabilities of almost £35 million.

Levitt Group (Holdings) holds unpledged assets of £5.6 million against unsecured liabilities of £9.4 million but nothing is expected to be realised from the sale of its assets.

About £300,000 of client funds is in segregated accounts but the liquidators have not yet estimated the shortfall in clients' monies.

SNC steps up for generator sell-off

By MARTIN WALLER

THE government is drafting in a third main stockbroker in an attempt to boost prospects for the sale of National Power and PowerGen, the electricity generators.

It is also considering selling up to 30 per cent of the shares on offer to overseas institutions to ensure maximum demand and prevent a flop.

Sources close to the flotation insist that the decision to increase the involvement of Smith New Court in the issue is to maximise proceeds and does not reflect government fears that the issue might fail.

But SNC's promotion is unlikely to be welcomed by the two existing main government brokers, James Capel and Rowe & Pitman. The government is expected to confirm today that it will not use primary underwriters, leaving the six brokers involved a clear field to arrange the sub-underwriting of the £1.8 billion partial float of the generators.

The other three, who along with SNC played only a minor role in the underwriting of the 12 electricity distributors, are Cazenove, County NatWest and Kleinwort Benson. SNC is likely to see an increase from the 10 per cent of the underwriting it arranged last time at the expense of some of the others.

Taiwan pulls \$35bn out of US banks

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Taiwanese Central Bank has withdrawn \$35 billion from America's leading banks because of growing fears over their creditworthiness.

In an extensive operation, the central bank has shifted most of the country's dollar holdings to the Federal Reserve and Japanese and European banks. Loss of the huge deposits is a further blow to America's banking system, already weakened from heavy bad debt provisions against commercial property loans.

The central bank said it now had minimal reserves in American banks. Taiwan is estimated to have foreign exchange reserves of \$73 billion, the world's second largest. The move is thought to have been prompted by downgrades of the banks by the Moody's and Standard & Poor's debt-rating agencies. Samuel Shieh, governor of the central bank, said a Gulf war would increase the problems in the banks. "The US economy is in more of a shambles than you can understand and war will prolong the recession," he said.

Knife after Hammer for Occidental

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

OCCIDENTAL Petroleum, owner of three North Sea oilfields and formerly headed by the late Armand Hammer, has taken the surgeon's knife to itself with a \$2 billion reorganisation which involves the sale of \$3 billion of assets and a dividend cut.

The oil group, which owns the world's largest slaughterhouses and also went into film making, has often sold assets or borrowed money to keep its dividend payments high, but it is now reducing its quarterly dividend from 62.5 cents to 25 cents as it seeks to reduce a debt mountain of almost \$9 billion.

The dividend cut will save \$400 million a year and the shake-up is expected to add \$200 million of net income to the bottom line.

Asset sales could include parts of the Piper, Claymore and Scapa fields in the North Sea. A spokesman for Occidental said in Los Angeles: "There are no sacred cows. It may be necessary to sell the assets of some of our core businesses to achieve our debt-reduction goal."

Occidental shares, down initially, gained 25 cents at lunchtime on Wall Street to \$17.6.

At the time of Dr Hammer's death last month, the shares jumped to \$23.25 on speculation that, as one of America's ten largest oil companies and its sixth biggest chemical company, Occidental could be worth \$35 a share broken up.

The company's 51 per cent stake in Iowa Beef Processors, the slaughterhouse business bought for \$750 million in 1981, is for sale. The company sold 49 per cent of IBP for \$960 million in 1987.

The Tan Tai Boa coal mine joint venture in China and the Tengiz petrochemical project in Russia, as well as the businesses of cattle and horse breeding, land and hotel development, film production and hybrid seed research and development will also be sold or closed.

Occidental is charging \$2 billion as the cost of leaving these businesses against its fourth quarter results, due out later this week. Net income for the first nine months of the year rose 20 per cent to \$306 million.

John Parry, an analyst with John S Herold, the American research firm, reckons that, based on Occidental's asset values, the oil and gas business, which includes its North Sea, Pakistan and South American exploration interests, is worth \$7 billion.

The chemical business, which in seven years has gone from losing \$38 million to making \$1 billion last year, is also valued at about \$7 billion.

Gas transmission could fetch \$2 billion, coal about \$300 million and the Iowa Beef Company, the world's largest slaughterhouse, might be worth \$700 million.

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Wednesday 13th February LIVERPOOL
Thursday 14th February MANCHESTER
Tuesday 19th February BRISTOL
Wednesday 20th February BIRMINGHAM
Thursday 21st February LONDON
Monday 25th February LONDON
Tuesday 26th February LONDON
Wednesday 27th February LONDON

ALL SEMINARS BEGIN AT 4.30 PM

M-GROUP

Lloyd's faces £1bn loss and prospects of more gloom

By JONATHAN PRYNN

LLOYD'S is facing losses of up to £1 billion for the 1989 underwriting year of account, with no real improvement in sight for 1990, according to preliminary profit forecasts for the three years currently open.

The prediction, supplied by Chatset, the analyst specialising in Lloyd's, would represent the worst year at Lloyd's since 1965, when the market was hit by losses from hurricanes.

The heaviest losses in 1989 are likely to be suffered by the marine market, which has had to pick up the bills from the loss of the oil tanker Exxon

Valdez and shipping lost as a result of Hurricane Hugo.

Overall, the average name can look forward to losses of at least 8.4 per cent of their line, based on a best-guess forecast of £863 million losses. Even that figure may worsen if there is further deterioration on pre-1988 years still left open.

Chatset said: "These figures for 1989 are very rough, but the general feeling in the market place is that the bottom-line 1989 loss over the whole market will exceed 10 per cent of stamp allocation."

Losses for 1989 are difficult to predict because of the volatility of the year but they would be between £500 million and £1 billion, Chatset said. The analyst added that there were no real signs of improvement in conditions for the 1990 year, which is also expected to make heavy losses.

The outlook for the 1988 year is considerably more favourable with Chatset expecting the market as a whole to produce a profit of about 1.5 to 2 per cent. After open year deterioration is taken into account, however, "then an overall break-even situation is the best possibility". Official figures for the 1988 year will not be known until later this year.

Share drive at London Electricity

By MARTIN WALLER

LONDON Electricity, which has one of the largest investor lists of the 12 newly privatised electricity distributors, is planning a campaign to show shareholders how they can deal in the shares.

The former LEB, which unveiled pre-tax profits of £23.4 million in the six months to end-September, had 950,000 shareholders as trading in its shares started on December 11, of whom only 250,000 were customers.

The company is keen to see that list shrink rapidly to cut the heavy costs that will be incurred servicing it.

Communications to shareholders, including annual reports, are therefore likely to give details of cheap share-dealing services.

The company is also keen to see customers who received minimal allocations build up their holdings. Roger Urwin, the managing director, said:

"The profits revealed yesterday put the group on target for the profit and dividend forecasts contained in last year's prospectus. London is forecasting pre-tax profits of at least £115.6 million for this year."

Jackaman named as Allied's chairman

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

SIR Derrick Holden-Brown, chairman of Allied-Lyons, will retire in July 1992 at the age of 69. His successor will be Michael Jackaman, aged 55, who heads Hiram Walker Allied Vintners, the wines and spirits division that dominates the group.

Mr Jackaman has a marketing background and made his mark by reviving the port market with the Cockburn's Special Reserve brand.

He overtakes Richard Martin, Allied-Lyons' chief executive, who will also temporarily take control of the wines and spirits division but who will retire in October 1992.

Mr Jackaman said he would probably continue to separate the roles of chairman and chief executive but that no decision had been taken. "I am very much a team man, and at the top of a business as big as Allied-Lyons you have to have several people working together."

Sir Derrick, who has been chairman since 1982 and was also chief executive until 1988, has reshaped the group in the last few years, notably by buying the Hiram Walker group, which had given him his first job 40 years earlier. He also played a prominent role in toning down the rigours of the monopolies commission report on beer.

Tony Hales, aged 41, who will become chairman and chief executive of J Lyons in March, represents a new generation of Allied top management.



Tomkins leaps 34%

Gregory Hatchings (above), chief executive of Tomkins, the industrial conglomerate, has reported a 34 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £31.2 million for the six months to November 3. Earnings per share growth of 8.4 per cent to 2.21p was achieved on a near-doubled capital base after a three-for-four share issue to finance last year's \$550 million acquisition of Phillips, the American company. The interim dividend rises 16.7 per cent to 2.8p. *Tempus, page 21*

Chloride to turn from batteries to electronics

By COLIN CAMPBELL

CHLORIDE is to sell the bulk of its battery interests to Hawker Siddeley, shed certain Far Eastern investments and concentrate instead on electronic businesses.

The battery sale, which Chloride hopes will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, should generate £43.5 million. Additional asset sales should fetch £14 million. The net effect will be a stronger balance sheet that, once a share capital reduction has been effected, should allow Chloride to resume dividend payments.

Ray Horrocks, Chloride's chairman, said the sales followed completion of a strategic review and should leave the group virtually debt-free.

Electronics was emerging as a division with potential for growth once the current economic recession eased, and Chloride believed a financially stronger group would be better able to develop the battery market.

If Hawker Siddeley successfully completes the battery purchase from Chloride, it will give the company 15 per cent of the wider European battery market. In Britain, Hawker Siddeley would dominate the domestic market, though all parties hope that any government consideration of the deal will concentrate on the European aspect of market share.

If the Hawker Siddeley sale was blocked, there would be other interested buyers for the battery assets, Chloride said. *Tempus, page 21*

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Great Portland opts for accounting change

GREAT Portland Estates has decided to stop capitalising interest on its development properties. Capitalising interest has been widely practised in recent years. Rising property values made it attractive for companies to take interest through the balance sheet, by adding it as a capital sum to the cost of the development rather than deducting interest through the profit-and-loss account.

Great Portland's pre-tax profits for the six months to September are reduced from £19.7 million to £17.2 million. The last full-year results drop from £36 million to £31.5 million. Although the change in accounting policy marginally reduces dividend cover, the overall dividend policy will not be affected.

Toyota £8.7m Alexon plans retail growth

CAMPBELL & Armstrong, the Manchester specialist shopfitting and building contractor, has been awarded an £8.75 million fitting-out contract by Toyota (UK). The contract, which has been won by Irwin, Campbell's Leeds subsidiary, is for Toyota's production plant complex at Burnaston, Derby, and is Campbell's largest single contract to date.

Excilibur ahead 21%

EXCALIBUR Group, the jewellery and giftware manufacturer, pushed pre-tax profits ahead by 21 per cent to £2.1 million in the six months to end-October.

Turnover rose to £30.8 million (£24.9 million) and earnings per share rose 12 per cent to 3.7p. The interim dividend has increased 33 per cent to 0.4p. The jewellery division increased market share. Hadrian, the group's crystal manufacturer, became profitable and exports of giftware increased. Michael Griffiths, the group's chairman, said: "The recent rights issue has restored our ability to take advantage of sensible opportunities to purchase new businesses which the current economic conditions are making available." The shares were unchanged at 45p.

Reg Vardy Fletcher King falls to £2.1m cuts dividend

REG Vardy, the motor dealer, suffered a 9 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £2.1 million in the six months to end-October and a 26 per cent fall in earnings to 4.56p a share. The company is paying a maiden interim dividend of 1.3p. Operating profits were maintained at £2.75 million, but interest charges rose from £438,000 to £631,000. Turnover rose 47 per cent to £93.7 million.

Dalepak lifts payout

STRONG organic growth helped Dalepak Foods, the manufacturer that is a brand leader in the meat grillsteak market, to a 71 per cent jump in pre-tax profits from £704,000 to £1.2 million in the six months to end-October. Turnover advanced 26 per cent to £21.1 million (£16.7 million), benefiting from increased sales of ready meals and frozen grill products. Earnings per share rose from 4.09p to 6.99p. The interim dividend is improved from 1.035p to 1.2p. There was an extraordinary debit of £260,000, relating to the closure of Worsley's, the cooked meats and pies maker. The company said it is confident that the annual results will show "substantial progress". The shares firmed 1p to 140p.

Sale of finance firm cuts Berisford debt

By ANGELA MACKAY

BERISFORD International has cut net debt to £55 million after selling an 85 per cent stake in Berisford Consumer Finance (Eastern) Ltd (BCFE) to Close Brothers Group.

BCFE offers hire-purchase and leasing facilities to individuals, mainly for buying cars. The north of England firm was the biggest of Berisford's three consumer finance businesses.

The sale of the other two is being negotiated. Because the deal included the repayment of £17 million inter-company borrowings, the sale of the stake involved only a nominal sum. As well as debts of £55 million, Berisford has contingent liabilities of £164 million, of which £90 million relates to letters of credit concerning its troublesome New York commercial-property portfolio. The balance of £74 million relates to the off-balance sheet coffee business.

After selling British Sugar to Associated British Foods, Berisford has net assets of £350 million. Although this compares quite favourably with net assets of £386 million a year ago, analysts see the remaining businesses as mostly non-cash generating and are asking where future profits will come from.

Sale Tilney slumps after write-offs

By NEIL BENNETT

SALE Tilney slumped into losses last year after being forced to make heavy stock write-offs in its food distribution division.

The news came as Sale, an engineering, food and insurance group, rescheduled its £42 million debt pile with a syndicate of 13 banks, led by National Westminster.

Andrew Coppel, the new chief executive and a former finance director from Ratners, said that Sale's losses for the year to end-November would "increase significantly" from the £3.9 million deficit the group reported in the first half. Tilney's shares slid another 2p

to 23p, more than 90 per cent down on their 238p high in 1989.

Almost all the losses came from Peabody Fine Foods, which suffered a series of exceptional write-offs incurred in moving into new premises. The insurance business will also show a small loss after a series of provisions.

Mr Coppel has completed a survey on Peabody and the rest of the group, and Sale will declare large exceptional provisions when it produces its preliminary figures in March. Most of Sale's banks have agreed to extend the company's loans until November.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990/91	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	Change	Vol	P/E
74	115	110	British	115	10	8.7	0	100	13.3
115	110	105	British	110	10	9.1	0	100	12.2
110	105	100	British	105	10	9.5	0	100	11.1
105	100	95	British	100	10	9.9	0	100	10.0
100	95	90	British	95	10	10.3	0	100	8.9
95	90	85	British	90	10	10.7	0	100	7.8
90	85	80	British	85	10	11.1	0	100	6.7
85	80	75	British	80	10	11.5	0	100	5.6
80	75	70	British	75	10	11.9	0	100	4.5
75	70	65	British	70	10	12.3	0	100	3.4
70	65	60	British	65	10	12.7	0	100	2.3
65	60	55	British	60	10	13.1	0	100	1.2
60	55	50	British	55	10	13.5	0	100	0.1
55	50	45	British	50	10	13.9	0	100	-1.0
50	45	40	British	45	10	14.3	0	100	-2.1
45	40	35	British	40	10	14.7	0	100	-3.2
40	35	30	British	35	10	15.1	0	100	-4.3
35	30	25	British	30	10	15.5	0	100	-5.4
30	25	20	British	25	10	15.9	0	100	-6.5
25	20	15	British	20	10	16.3	0	100	-7.6
20	15	10	British	15	10	16.7	0	100	-8.7
15	10	5	British	10	10	17.1	0	100	-9.8
10	5	0	British	5	10	17.5	0	100	-10.9
5	0	0	British	0	10	17.9	0	100	-12.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	18.3	0	100	-13.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	18.7	0	100	-14.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	19.1	0	100	-15.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	19.5	0	100	-16.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	19.9	0	100	-17.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	20.3	0	100	-18.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	20.7	0	100	-19.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	21.1	0	100	-20.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	21.5	0	100	-21.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	21.9	0	100	-23.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	22.3	0	100	-24.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	22.7	0	100	-25.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	23.1	0	100	-26.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	23.5	0	100	-27.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	23.9	0	100	-28.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	24.3	0	100	-29.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	24.7	0	100	-30.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	25.1	0	100	-31.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	25.5	0	100	-32.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	25.9	0	100	-34.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	26.3	0	100	-35.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	26.7	0	100	-36.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	27.1	0	100	-37.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	27.5	0	100	-38.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	27.9	0	100	-39.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	28.3	0	100	-40.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	28.7	0	100	-41.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	29.1	0	100	-42.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	29.5	0	100	-43.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	29.9	0	100	-45.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	30.3	0	100	-46.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	30.7	0	100	-47.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	31.1	0	100	-48.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	31.5	0	100	-49.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	31.9	0	100	-50.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	32.3	0	100	-51.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	32.7	0	100	-52.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	33.1	0	100	-53.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	33.5	0	100	-54.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	33.9	0	100	-56.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	34.3	0	100	-57.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	34.7	0	100	-58.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	35.1	0	100	-59.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	35.5	0	100	-60.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	35.9	0	100	-61.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	36.3	0	100	-62.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	36.7	0	100	-63.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	37.1	0	100	-64.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	37.5	0	100	-65.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	37.9	0	100	-67.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	38.3	0	100	-68.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	38.7	0	100	-69.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	39.1	0	100	-70.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	39.5	0	100	-71.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	39.9	0	100	-72.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	40.3	0	100	-73.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	40.7	0	100	-74.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	41.1	0	100	-75.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	41.5	0	100	-76.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	41.9	0	100	-78.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	42.3	0	100	-79.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	42.7	0	100	-80.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	43.1	0	100	-81.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	43.5	0	100	-82.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	43.9	0	100	-83.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	44.3	0	100	-84.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	44.7	0	100	-85.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	45.1	0	100	-86.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	45.5	0	100	-87.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	45.9	0	100	-89.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	46.3	0	100	-90.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	46.7	0	100	-91.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	47.1	0	100	-92.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	47.5	0	100	-93.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	47.9	0	100	-94.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	48.3	0	100	-95.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	48.7	0	100	-96.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	49.1	0	100	-97.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	49.5	0	100	-98.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	49.9	0	100	-100.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	50.3	0	100	-101.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	50.7	0	100	-102.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	51.1	0	100	-103.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	51.5	0	100	-104.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	51.9	0	100	-105.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	52.3	0	100	-106.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	52.7	0	100	-107.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	53.1	0	100	-108.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	53.5	0	100	-109.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	53.9	0	100	-111.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	54.3	0	100	-112.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	54.7	0	100	-113.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	55.1	0	100	-114.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	55.5	0	100	-115.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	55.9	0	100	-116.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	56.3	0	100	-117.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	56.7	0	100	-118.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	57.1	0	100	-119.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	57.5	0	100	-120.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	57.9	0	100	-122.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	58.3	0	100	-123.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	58.7	0	100	-124.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	59.1	0	100	-125.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	59.5	0	100	-126.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	59.9	0	100	-127.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	60.3	0	100	-128.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	60.7	0	100	-129.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	61.1	0	100	-130.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	61.5	0	100	-131.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	61.9	0	100	-133.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	62.3	0	100	-134.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	62.7	0	100	-135.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	63.1	0	100	-136.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	63.5	0	100	-137.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	63.9	0	100	-138.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	64.3	0	100	-139.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	64.7	0	100	-140.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	65.1	0	100	-141.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	65.5	0	100	-142.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	65.9	0	100	-144.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	66.3	0	100	-145.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	66.7	0	100	-146.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	67.1	0	100	-147.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	67.5	0	100	-148.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	67.9	0	100	-149.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	68.3	0	100	-150.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	68.7	0	100	-151.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	69.1	0	100	-152.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	69.5	0	100	-153.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	69.9	0	100	-155.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	70.3	0	100	-156.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	70.7	0	100	-157.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	71.1	0	100	-158.3
0	0	0	British	0	10	71.5	0	100	-159.4
0	0	0	British	0	10	71.9	0	100	-160.5
0	0	0	British	0	10	72.3	0	100	-161.6
0	0	0	British	0	10	72.7	0	100	-162.7
0	0	0	British	0	10	73.1	0	100	-163.8
0	0	0	British	0	10	73.5	0	100	-164.9
0	0	0	British	0	10	73.9	0	100	-166.0
0	0	0	British	0	10	74.3	0	100	-167.1
0	0	0	British	0	10	74.7	0	100	-168.2
0	0	0	British	0	10	75.1			

Broad St shares suspended

SHARES in Broad Street Group, the troubled financial public relations company, were suspended at 6p when the group announced it was in discussions with its bankers and BDDP, the French advertising company that owns nearly 40 per cent of the group. A year ago the shares were trading at 35p.

The talks concern a financial reconstruction of Broad Street and may lead to an offer by BDDP for the outstanding share capital.

In the six months to end-September, pre-tax profits fell from £1.4 million to £297,000. The group, valued at £2.4 million, has debt of £5.5 million.

Cantors warning

CANTORS, the high street furniture retailer, increased profits by 52 per cent, from £952,000 to £1.45 million, in the six months to October 27 but gave warning of a less certain outcome for the full year because of high interest rates and generally tougher trading conditions.

Turnover of the company, which recently bought 22 former Lowndes Queensway stores from the receivers, rose 9 per cent to £24.7 million. Earnings per share are up 52 per cent to 6.89p (4.53p). The interim dividend is kept at 1p. The shares lost 50p to 650p.

Bonuses cut

National Provident Institution has cut bonus payouts on its 10 and 15-year endowment policies and on some shorter-term pension policies. It blamed poor investment returns over the last few years. Payouts on 20- and 25-year life and pension policies, however, are up from last year.

Wheels deal

AAF Investment Corporation, the investment holding company 57.6 per cent owned by the South African FSI Group, has bought the wheels business of Parkfield Group, the collapsed entertainment and engineering conglomerate, from the joint administrators for R11 million.

STOCK MARKET

Nervous market-makers take a defensive stand

SHARE prices and bonds spent a nervous session with dealers and investors batten- ing down the hatches as the deadline for the Iraq with- drawal from Kuwait ap- proached.

Market-makers went on the defensive at the start of the new trading account, marking share prices sharply lower and offering investors little scope for becoming sellers. The tactic appears to have met with considerable success and enabled them to avoid opening new positions. By the close of business a meagre 267 million shares had changed hands, although the figure may have been deflated by new trading regulations giving dealers more time to break bargains.

The FT-SE 100 index was down more than 34 points at one stage but recovered some of its poise, helped by last minute attempts at reaching a peaceful settlement by the United Nations and Yemen. It finished 25.3 lower at 2,080.8 as Wall Street opened with a fall of almost 30 points. The FT index of 30 shares lost 18.1 at 1,627.9.

Government securities ended with falls of £½ as the prospect of a cut in interest rates continued to recede.

British Steel fell 1½p to 115p after a downgrading by BZW. Rory Sweetman, an analyst, has cut his forecast of pre-tax profits for the current year from £490 million to £440 million and for 1992 by £65 million to £360 million. Last year British Steel made profits of £733 million. He points out that steel production in the United Kingdom fell last year by 15.1 per cent and strip steel production is expected to fall by about 13 per cent during the first quarter this year.

Mr Sweetman says the performance of the share price will be dominated by the group's dividend policy, which in the past has been generous. He is now looking

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, fell 3p to 200p after a visit by analysts to the company's Northfleet Kent plant.

Last week the group announced that it planned to raise cement prices by 6 per cent price. Some analysts doubt the group's ability to be able to peg the increase because of the continuing slump in the construction industry. Blue Circle is reckoned to have arranged a number of one-to-one meetings with analysts. Dealers are worried that it could lead to further profit downgradings within the next few weeks.

County NatWest WoodMac, the
Burmah Castrol, down 3p at 47
pence. It says oil prices will fall
fundamentals. After underperform-
ing since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, I
The rating does not reflect SHV
improving margins and disposals

changes. Geoffrey Maddrell has resigned from the board and Anthony Habgood has been appointed chief executive and James Harrison deputy chairman.

Another gloomy report from the Confederation of British Industry highlighting the downturn in consumer spending contrasted with a rise of almost 2 per cent in retail sales during December, which surprised the market which had been bracing itself for another fall.

Argos fell 6p to 241p. **Boots** 4p to 322p, **Great Universal Stores 'A'** 24p to £10.68, **Kingsfisher** 4p to 381p. **Next** 2½p to 14p. **Ratners** 9p to 162p and **Storehouse** 3p to 101p.

Chloride, the troubled battery supplier, was unmoved at 16p after announcing details of a strategic review. The group is selling the Standby and Defence battery business to **Hawker Siddeley** for £43.5

broker, has turned bullish of 8p, for the first time in three ill, sooner or later, to reflect mining the market 20 per cent Burmah is a prime beneficiary. V's 9.1 per cent, potential for at Fosco.

million and a 76 per cent holding in Chloride Eastern Industries for £14 million. The disposals will leave the group debt free. Hawker Siddeley slipped 1p to 427p.

The water companies were dull as they went ex-dividend. Anglian was down from 270p to 262p, Northumbrian 13p to 263p, North West 9p to 258p, Severn Trent 10p to 233p, Southern 11p to 232p, South West 10p to 255p, Thames 10p to 254p, Welsh 6p to 278p, Wessex 9p to 257p, and Yorkshire 11p to 267p. The water package also ended £100 lower at £2.533.

Dealers claim some fund managers have considered reducing their weighting on water and re-investing the proceeds in electricity before the dividend season starting in the summer. Ratings among the electricity companies are seen as attractive. Political worries about re-nationalisation appear to have subsided.

Yorkshire firmed 1p to 161p while Eastern on 135p, Northern on 146p and the North West on 147p were all unmoved. But there were small falls for East Midlands 1p to 145p, London 1p to 144p, Manweb 1½p to 165p, Midlands 1p to 139p, Seaboard 2p to 135p, South-east ½p to 141p, South Wales ½p to 157p and South West a similar amount at 140p. The electricity package fell £10 to £1,455.

Shares of Sale Tilney fell 2p to 23p after giving warning that losses for the year are likely to increase "significantly" on the £3.9 million already reported at the halfway stage. The group blames provisions in the food division, the exceptional cost of reviewing the group financial position and formalising its banking relationships.

Elms (Wimbledon), the department store group, was a major casualty of the thin conditions and desire of the market-makers to stay out of trouble. The shares, normally quoted in a 5,000 share market, plunged 225p to 750p at the first sign of any selling.

Dow takes a beating in early trading

NEW YORK
SHARES were under heavy pressure in moderate mid-morning trade, with blue chips holding just off early session lows. After weekend peace talks failed, concern over a Gulf war touched off a morning selloff.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 28.47 points at 2,473.02. Declining shares outpaced advancing shares by eleven to one.

Oil prices surged, with crude for February delivery, topping \$30 a barrel. Investors were also worried that the Soviet crackdown in Lithuania. "There's a feeling that a [midwest] war is pretty much certain," said John McElroy, a principal at 1838 Investment Advisors.

Oil Tokyo Shares closed mixed after a day of very thin trade ahead of a national holiday today. The Nikkei index closed down 27.79 points, or 0.12 per cent, at 23,213.23, with 180 million shares traded against 350 million on Friday. News that the Soviet central government had ordered Lithuania to be combined with fears of impending war in the Gulf to keep trade thin.

□ Hong Kong — Share prices closed off the day's lows after being boosted by institutional buyers and after a partial rebound in Tokyo, brokers said. The Hang Seng index closed down 20.75 points at 3,037.62. The Hong Kong index fell 14.34 to 1,990.26.

□ **Singapore**—Share prices in Singapore fell over a broad front but the Straits Times index closed 2.18 points higher at 1,177.52.

□ Sydney — Negative sentiment caused by escalating tension in the Middle East and Soviet tactics in Lithuania drove the Australian market to its lowest close for three years. The All-Ordinaries index slid 12.5 points to 1,231.3, its lowest close since February 1966.

WALL STREET

[illegible]

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

The prices in this section refer to Friday's trading

Ex dividend. = Cum dividend. = Cum
split. = Ex stock split. = Cum all
two or more of above). = Ex all (any
or more of above). Dealing or
operation since 1933.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	High-Pot	Industrials E-K	
2	Loc Refrigeration	Electricals	
3	Premier	Oil/Gas	
4	Walsham/Rink	Chemicals/Plas	
5	Polypipe	Industrials L-R	
6	Leas Transit	Electricals	
7	Domestic	Electricals	
8	Rural Telecom	Electricals	
9	Lucas	Motors/Aircraft	
10	Smith WH 'A'	Drugs/Stores	
11	Optical & Med	Industrials L-R	
12	Rural Elect	Electricals	
13	Lookers	Motors/Aircraft	
14	Pharmigan	Food	
15	Brent Walker	Leisure	
16	Hampson Ind	Industrials E-K	
17	Groinger	Property	
18	Cox Western Res	Oil/Gas	
19	TGH	Industrials S-Z	
20	Claydon Son	Industrials E-K	
21	Hall Eng	Industrials E-K	
22	Fitch-RS	Paper/Print/Adv	
23	CIA Gp	Paper/Print/Adv	
24	API	Paper/Print/Adv	
25	McKay Soc	Property	
26	Clyde Pet	Oil/Gas	
27	Aran Energy	Oil/Gas	
28	Baggeridge Brick	Building/Roads	
29	Beauford	Industrials A-D	
30	BSS Group	Industrials A-D	
31	Athensac	Industrials A-D	
32	Goat Pet	Oil/Gas	
33	Dag Motors	Motors/Aircraft	
34	Harty O & G	Oil/Gas	
35	Gold Greenless	Paper/Print/Adv	
36	Cap & Candles	Property	
37	Worland	Property	
38	Cosalt	Industrials A-D	
39	Southwest	Newspapers/Pub	
40	Electron House	Electricals	
41	Br Petroleum	Oil/Gas	
42	Granada	Industrials E-K	
43	First Leisure	Leisure	
44	By Land	Property	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Six readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr Richard Walsh, of south west London, Mrs Pearl Robbins, of Taunton, Somerset, Mr Roger Harris, of Amphil, Bedford, Mrs A Crowther, of Goshington, Chesham, Mr J Bland, of Northampton, and Mrs E Root, of Haslemere, Surrey, each receive £333.33.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield
SHORTS (Under Five Years)							
100%	100.00	99.99	100.00	100.00	0.01	0.01	10.00
90%	90.00	89.99	90.00	90.00	0.01	0.01	9.00
80%	80.00	79.99	80.00	80.00	0.01	0.01	8.00
70%	70.00	69.99	70.00	70.00	0.01	0.01	7.00
60%	60.00	59.99	60.00	60.00	0.01	0.01	6.00
50%	50.00	49.99	50.00	50.00	0.01	0.01	5.00
40%	40.00	39.99	40.00	40.00	0.01	0.01	4.00
30%	30.00	29.99	30.00	30.00	0.01	0.01	3.00
20%	20.00	19.99	20.00	20.00	0.01	0.01	2.00
10%	10.00	9.99	10.00	10.00	0.01	0.01	1.00
FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS							
100%	100.00	99.99	100.00	100.00	0.01	0.01	10.00
90%	90.00	89.99	90.00	90.00	0.01	0.01	9.00
80%	80.00	79.99	80.00	80.00	0.01	0.01	8.00
70%	70.00	69.99	70.00	70.00	0.01	0.01	7.00
60%	60.00	59.99	60.00	60.00	0.01	0.01	6.00
50%	50.00	49.99	50.00	50.00	0.01	0.01	5.00
40%	40.00	39.99	40.00	40.00	0.01	0.01	4.00
30%	30.00	29.99	30.00	30.00	0.01	0.01	3.00
20%	20.00	19.99	20.00	20.00	0.01	0.01	2.00
10%	10.00	9.99	10.00	10.00	0.01	0.01	1.00
OVER FIFTEEN YEARS							
100%	100.00	99.99	100.00	100.00	0.01	0.01	10.00
90%	90.00	89.99	90.00	90.00	0.01	0.01	9.00
80%	80.00	79.99	80.00	80.00	0.01	0.01	8.00
70%	70.00	69.99	70.00	70.00	0.01	0.01	7.00
60%	60.00	59.99	60.00	60.00	0.01	0.01	6.00
50%	50.00	49.99	50.00	50.00	0.01	0.01	5.00
40%	40.00	39.99	40.00	40.00	0.01	0.01	4.00
30%	30.00	29.99	30.00	30.00	0.01	0.01	3.00
20%	20.00	19.99	20.00	20.00	0.01	0.01	2.00
10%	10.00	9.99	10.00	10.00	0.01	0.01	1.00
UNDATED							
100%	100.00	99.99	100.00	100.00	0.01	0.01	10.00
90%	90.00	89.99	90.00	90.00	0.01	0.01	9.00
80%	80.00	79.99	80.00	80.00	0.01	0.01	8.00
70%	70.00	69.99	70.00	70.00	0.01	0.01	7.00
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20%	20.00	19.99	20.00	20.00	0.01	0.01	2.00
10%	10.00	9.99	10.00	10.00	0.01	0.01	1.00
INDEX-LINKED							
100%	100.00	99.99	100.00	100.00	0.01	0.01	10.00
90%	90.00	89.99	90.00	90.00	0.01	0.01	9.00
80%	80.00	79.99	80.00	80.00	0.01	0.01	8.00
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20%	20.00	19.99	20.00	20.00	0.01	0.01	2.00
10%	10.00	9.99	10.00	10.00	0.01	0.01	1.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yield
100%	100.00	99.99	100.00	100.00	0.01	0.01	10.00
90%	90.00	89.99	90.00	90.00	0.01	0.01	9.00
80%	80.00	79.99	80.00	80.00	0.01	0.01	8.00
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Sharp falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 14. Dealings end January 25. Contango day January 28. Settlement day February 4.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1990/91	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yield
100%	100.00	99.99	100.00	100.00	0.01	0.01	10.00
90%	90.00	89.99	90.00	90.00	0.01	0.01	9.00
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10%	10.00	9.99	10.00	10.00	0.01	0.01	1.00

1990/91

Winners in the divorce lottery

Calculating maintenance on a divorce is fairly rough and ready. For two centuries, courts have used the "one-third rule": separated wives with no income have had either a third of their husband's income or, if less, the amount needed to keep their previous standard of living. For the circumstances for which it was devised, the rule was reasonable. Fathers had custody of children, and only rich people, for whom the rule did not always seem appropriate, could afford to litigate.

Today's chaos flows only from the failure to extend this original logic to changed circumstances: wives as well as husbands have income, they usually have custody of the children, and most families are poor, not rich. Yet maintenance calculation still comes down to the incomes of the spouses, the proportion of a person's income that can reasonably be ordered as maintenance without invading default, the number and ages of children, and the duration of the marriage. All these are specific and can be put into formulae.

Existing principles might extend to accommodate these basics, giving everybody the same starting point for calculation. In average cases at present, a spouse with no income qualifies for a third of the other's income. On the other hand, there is no maintenance if their incomes are equal.

The extremes automatically define the range between them. All one needs is a graph on which the



The system for calculating maintenance on divorce is a lottery. In the second of

two articles, David Green outlines proposals for a more precise way to calculate the amount and save on cost and distress

percentage of the payer's income as maintenance scales down from 33 to 0 per cent, as the recipient's contribution to joint income rises from 0 to 50 per cent.

The maximum available for children can be similarly determined. A parent with care of children and with no income qualifies for a third of the other's income under the one-third rule. No court is then likely to make a child order that takes the whole above 50 per cent. People ordered to pay more than half their income default, wholesale. So, as happens now, in average cases child orders are unlikely to exceed 17 per cent of a payer's income.

Another benchmark is when the custodial parent has half the income. Subject to their means, both parents are equally liable for their children. So if 17 per cent of a payer's income is the likely maximum child maintenance when the custodial parent has no income, 8.5 per cent is the logical limit when incomes are equal. All other contingencies can then be covered by a line on a graph in the same way as for spouses.

With maxima so determined, child maintenance can sensibly be

geared to numbers and ages. The cost of a child is related to age: every £1 required up to the age of five, becomes £2 up to the age of ten, £3 up to the age of 13, £4 up to the age of 17 and £5 if the child has to be maintained after that. Divide the maximum available for child maintenance by the number of children and maintenance for each is then the number of quarters or fifths of that figure appropriate to the child's age.

Applied to cases involving families in average circumstances, principles such as these do not produce results that differ wildly from those that emerge, after great cost and distress, from the present system. Laying them down as a standard and universal starting basis for calculation would save much of that cost and distress.

But what about families not of average circumstances? Even the original one-third rule had a cut-off level when applied to the incomes of the excessively rich. All we need are more cut-offs for the poor. For instance, it is unrealistic to order somebody to pay maintenance if his income is at or below subsistence level as defined for social security benefit purposes.

The law should say so and not encourage courts to make orders that then have to be appealed, on legal aid, at a cost that may exceed ten, 15 or even 20 years of the maintenance involved.

In addition, although every maintenance calculation starts with income net of reasonable living expenses, people of between subsistence and average income may be driven below the poverty line if the one-third principle is applied.

When the social security department assesses maintenance for a contribution to family support, it applies precise rules — the liable relative rules — to avoid this trap. Similar rules have been proposed for child maintenance assessment in the white paper, "Children Come First". All we need is for the courts to apply these generally in calculations involving people of below average income.

How long should maintenance be paid? For children, as now, it should be paid until they reach 17 or complete full-time education. However, in England, spouses' rights end only when they die or

remarry if they or the courts refuse a clean break. Scottish law requires maintenance to allow the recipient to adjust to lost financial support during a three-year period. The three-year rule is arbitrary, however, and the exceptions encourage costly dispute. A refining of the Scottish principle could suit most people.

If a marriage without children fails within a few years, the spouse's pre-marital earning power is not likely to have been affected. On the other hand, few can adjust while caring for children, and the longer that marriages endure, the larger are the concessions likely to have been made by the lower earner, and the longer the period of adjustment needed.

A rule that a spouse's right to maintenance should run until the 17th birthday of the last of any children in his or her care, plus one year for every year of the marriage after the first two, would catch these contingencies, and if recipients did better than this principle anticipates, the calculation of amount would compensate.

Precision would save costly argument over who should have what. It would also save cost in discovering who has what. With something more certain than a lottery for the division of resources, people would be more open about those they hold.

The author was a member of the Law Society's family law committee from 1967 to 1988 and is the author of "Splitting up: A Legal and Financial Guide to Separation and Divorce" (Kogan Page).



Law Report January 15 1991 Court of Appeal

Insurance company unable to indemnify itself over voluntary payment

Legal & General Assurance Society v Drake Insurance Co Ltd
Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson
[Judgment December 20]

An insurance company which paid a claim in full pursuant to its statutory obligations could not indemnify itself as to 50 per cent against another insurance company in circumstances of double insurance where the payment in excess of 50 per cent was not obligatory.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the defendant, Drake Insurance Co Ltd, from the decision of Mr R. Buckley, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, who, on July 7, 1989 had allowed an action by the plaintiff, Legal & General Assurance Society, to claim 50

per cent contribution from the defendant, where the assured had double insurance.

Mr Jonathan Woods for the defendant; Mr Jonathan Playford, QC and Mr Leon Viljoen for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that the case concerned the right of contribution between co-insurers.

On June 14, 1976 the assured was driving his car when he collided with a pedestrian causing him serious injury. The assured had two policies of insurance. The reason for the double insurance remained a mystery.

On December 5, 1977 the plaintiff informed the defendant of the existence of the claim of which the defendant had until then been ignorant. On Decem-

ber 23 the plaintiff settled the claim.

The Drake policy contained a provision whereby immediate notice of an event which might give rise to a claim had to be given in writing to the defendant. It further provided that due observance should be a condition precedent to the defendant's liability to make payment under the policy.

There were similar provisions in the Legal & General policy. Both policies contained a rateable proportion clause in the following, or similar terms: "If ... there is other insurance covering the same loss damage or liability the society will not pay or contribute more than its rateable proportion ..."

Before the Court of Appeal, Mr Woods had sought to rely on the rateable proportion clause in

the Legal & General policy. The point was raised for the first time by amendment to his skeleton argument. Nevertheless the plaintiff did not object.

Was it possible for the plaintiff now to recover the 50 per cent which it need not have paid? Mr Woods argued that the excess over 50 per cent was a voluntary payment.

Since the right of contribution only arose in equity where an insurer was obliged under his policy to pay more than his rateable proportion, the plaintiff could not recover the excess from the defendant. The rateable proportion clause excluded the right of contribution.

His Lordship found that new point a difficult one, the more so because of section 149(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 "as amended by the Motor Vehicles

(Compulsory Insurance) Regulations (SI 1987 No 2171) and section 151(7) of the Road Traffic Act 1988).

A third party who had obtained judgment against an assured in respect of a liability required to be insured under the Act could enforce the judgment against the insurer notwithstanding any provision contained in the policy of insurance.

Assuming the settlement of the third party's claim, followed by a court order approving the settlement, was a "judgment" for the purposes of section 149, it could be argued that the plaintiff was compelled to pay the whole of the claim by force of law, in which case the excess over 50 per cent was not a voluntary payment.

The difficulty with that argu-

ment was that the plaintiff, although obliged to pay the third party the whole of his claim, was entitled to recover the excess over 50 per cent from the assured. It followed that, so far as the defendant was concerned, the excess over 50 per cent was a voluntary payment.

His Lordship could not see any answer to that difficulty nor could he see how the plaintiff could recover from the defendant half the 50 per cent which was its net liability to the assured.

The plaintiff argued that it was acting properly in not seeking to recover the excess over 50 per cent from the assured and that it would be an unjustified consequence to deprive it of its right to contribution.

Insurers should not be encouraged to take every legal defence, and pursue every legal remedy which might be open to them against their assured.

That was valid point so far as it went. But to allow a claim against the defendant based on such considerations would extend the equitable doctrine of contribution beyond any previous authority.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that he would allow the appeal on the ground argued for the defendant at trial. His Lordship was not persuaded that there was any ground in law to impose on the defendant in favour of the plaintiff a liability which the plaintiff did not agree to satisfy under the terms of its contract with its assured.

Both insurers, by the terms of the contract between them and the assured, gave compelling reasons to the assured to preserve any right he might have under any "other insurance".

If the assured had preserved his rights against both insurers by complying with the conditions, there could be no doubt of the right of contribution between the insurers and probably in such circumstances by agreement between them, one company would have handled the claim.

It was common ground, however, that the assured did not preserve his right against the defendant. It followed that although the plaintiff was obliged under the Road Traffic Act to settle the full amount of the claim, the plaintiff was entitled to limit its liability to the assured to 50 per cent of what it was compelled by statute to pay out.

The plaintiff submitted that it was acting properly in handling the claim in the way it did and contended that it should not be penalised in consequence. His Lordship accepted that the plaintiff acted sensibly and generously towards the assured but that conduct did not increase or alter the nature of its rights against the defendant.

At best, the plaintiff could recover only contribution in respect of its legal liability towards the assured but, since the basis of contribution was a payment by a claimant in excess of his rateable proportion as between co-insurers, there could be no claim in contribution by the plaintiff or in any case where there were effective rateable proportion clauses in the policies of each co-insurer.

However, the fact that insurers commonly made provision with reference to the effect of existing "other insurance" by means of rateable proportion clauses seemed to his Lordship

to support the view that there was no right to contribution in the circumstances of this case.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that in the simple case where one of two insurers, who were independently and unconditionally liable to the same assured for the whole of his loss, accepted sole liability for settling the claim, he had an undoubted right of contribution from the other insurer for half the costs of the settlement.

There being no contract between the insurers, the right of contribution depended on an equity which required someone who had taken the benefit of a premium to share the burden of meeting the claim.

Why should that equity be displaced simply because the claim had failed to give the notice which was necessary to make the other insurer liable to him? At the moment of the accident either insurer could have been made liable for the whole of the loss.

Why should he who accepted sole liability for settling the claim be deprived of his right to contribution by an omission on the part of the assured over which he had no control? As between the two insurers the basis of equity was unimpaired. He who had received a benefit ought to bear his due proportion of the burden.

However, the plaintiff's right to recover the excess over 50 per cent from the assured himself under section 149 of the Road Traffic Act seemed a conclusive objection to its having a right to contribution against the defendants. The appeal had to be allowed on that ground.

Solicitors: Stevensons; Lawrence Graham.

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Charges for false fire alarm calls beyond authority's powers

Thorn Securities Ltd v Sackville and Others

Before Judge Turner

[Judgment December 20]

Charges made by a fire authority in respect of false alarm calls emanating from new alarm systems used in hospitals and medical establishments were beyond the powers of the authority as set out in the Fire Services Act 1947.

Judge Turner, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when giving judgment in favour of the defendants, the trustees of St Andrews Independent Hospital, in the claim by the plaintiff, Thorn Securities Ltd, for charges in respect of false alarms arising in premises in which their equipment had been installed, and which had been charged to them by the fire authority.

Equipment which gave direct warning from the premises concerned to the local fire station reducing reaction time in the case of fire was installed by the plaintiffs. Over 1,000 smoke detectors had been installed in

hospitals in the area concerned.

False alarms occurred more frequently and the fire authority made charges to the hospital. In 1984 by an agreement those charges were transferred to the plaintiffs and the plaintiffs having paid the fire authority duty passed on the charges to the hospital which declined to pay.

Mr Andrew Monson for the plaintiffs; Mr Richard Rundell for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said the agreement providing for the payment of all charges must make all lawful charges. If the fire authority had no power to make them they were unlawful and they could and should not recover them from the plaintiffs under their agreement and the plaintiffs could not recover them from the defendants.

Under the Fire Services Act 1947 fire authorities could only act under the power, as there given to them. Section 3 gave power to do various things including: "(1) ... (c) to employ the fire brigade for purposes other than fire-fighting purposes ... and, if they think fit, to make such

charge as they may determine."

But the vital provision was section 3 (4) Save as expressly provided in this Act, a fire authority shall not make any charge for services rendered by the authority.

There were criminal sanctions provided for to deal with false alarms so the draftsmen were aware of the danger but the statute did not render anyone liable to any civil charge for any payment to be made to the authority.

Therefore, if Parliament had intended the fire authority to be able to charge the owners of particular buildings where false alarms took place they would have expressly said so.

The services being charged for were part of the services which it was the fire authority's duty to provide under section 3, something to assist in the efficient provision of those services and the statute provided that for that they should not charge.

Solicitors: Hewitson Becke & Shaw, Northampton; Metson Cross & Co.

Silence does not add credibility

Regina v Hubbard

Before Lord Justice Farquharson, Mr Justice Garland and Mr Justice Cioffi

[Judgment December 11]

A defendant who exercised his right to silence by not answering questions when interviewed by the police after his arrest and declined to give evidence at his trial did not thereby in any way add credibility or weight to the evidence of an accomplice or any other prosecution witness.

The jury should be directed that they still had to assess the reliability and truthfulness of the witnesses' evidence even if no evidence had been called by the defence to contradict it.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing the appeal of David Hubbard against his conviction on August 15, 1989 at Maidstone Crown Court

(Judge Cosgrave and a jury) of conspiracy to steal, on which he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

Mr Dermot Wright, who did not appear below, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr James O'Mahony for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE FARQUHARSON said that it was the prosecution case that the defendant and his brother, a co-defendant, stole cars in the London area which were then driven to premises in Kent run by a man who cannibalised the cars.

At trial that man, who had pleaded guilty to handling stolen vehicles, was called to give evidence on behalf of the Crown and gave the main evidence against the defendant.

At the outset of the summing up the judge made it clear that the defendant could not be criticised for exercising his right to remain silent, but it was submitted that in a number of passages the judge indicated to the jury that by remaining silent and not going into the witness box to deny what the accomplice had said, the defendant had in some way improved or enhanced the accomplice's evidence.

In their Lordships' view there was considerable weight in that submission. The credibility of an accomplice's evidence was not a defendant's decision not to give evidence. The combination of the directions given made the conviction unsafe and unsatisfactory and it would be quashed.

Solicitors: CPS, Kent.

Interview or interrogation?

Police questioning of suspects has long caused alarm, but the revised code of practice should eliminate improper procedure, Anthony Edwards writes

Regrettably, a suspect's statutory right to legal advice in a police station is often treated with suspicion, even hostility. For a solicitor seeking to do his or her job, the experience can be uncomfortable, and at times frightening. However, police forces are at last starting to realise the need for improved training in the handling of interviews, training that also needs to include discussion of the solicitor's statutory role.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 came into force on January 1, 1986. The act established a regime of legal rights for suspects detained by the police, balancing greater powers for the police in the investigation of crime. Particular concern had been expressed about the making of false confessions, a concern that will be examined by Sir John May in his enquiry into the Guildford and Woolwich bombings.

The balance recognised by the act follows from the adversarial nature of English law. This will operate effectively only if the prosecution and defence undertake fully their responsibilities. In this sense, the best assurance of a full investigation is effective defence.

By Section 58 of the act, "a person arrested and held in custody in a police station... shall be entitled if he so

requests to consult a solicitor privately at any time". This right was given reality by creation of the duty solicitor schemes for such suspects, and also for those attending police stations voluntarily.

The act also provided for codes of practice to be issued, one of which deals with the detention, treatment and questioning of suspects. Judges can, during a trial, take these codes into account and may justify a decision to exclude otherwise admissible evidence if their terms have not been observed properly.

The code recognises that a suspect need not answer any questions or provide any information that might tend to incriminate him or her, and that no adverse inferences from this silence may be drawn at trial. Any change in that situation would upset the balance achieved by the act.

After a lengthy consultation process, it has been necessary to introduce revised codes, which will come into force on April 1. These appear to significantly strengthen a suspect's position. If this causes concern to the police, they

have themselves to blame.

The solicitor's duty is to provide independent advice and to ensure that no improper pressure is placed on a detainee. Solicitors work within the judicial system that requires the state to prove the commission of a criminal offence by evidence that can be used in court. They will always pay particular regard, therefore, to the quality of the evidence on which a police officer seeks to rely. If there is none, or if an officer will not disclose what it is, a client will be advised to say nothing.

If a case has been prepared carefully and the evidence is strong, a different view will be taken in many cases, unless to speak might cause greater difficulty for the suspect. This may be because of the suspect's condition or because the officer's attitude is such that the client would be exposed to overlong and aggressive interviewing, with a result too unsure to be relied upon.

Too few officers recognise the code's confirmation that the purpose of any interview is

to obtain an explanation of the facts, not an admission. Too many investigators see a confession as the aim of a case, instead of final confirmation of what the evidence already suggests.

The introduction of tape-recording is an important step, which allows for more natural speech and records the tone and nature of much questioning. In many cases, officers have to transcribe parts of an interview, and so are at last beginning to restrict the length of their questions, but much of what they say still gives cause for concern.

Solicitors attending interviews are experienced examiners and few would conduct a cross-examination in court in the way that many detectives do in the initial interview. Both types of examination require an appreciation of the relevant issues, thorough preparation, and an approach that will not antagonise the eventual tribunal.

If investigators came to follow the same rules, they would find that greater reliance could be placed on the resulting information. There is far too much reliance on the custodial interview.

The number of cases in which there is a real and continuing risk of inference from evidence is much smaller than most police officers choose to believe, and the fear that most suspects, who still



Police training: interview procedures are being improved

do not seek legal advice, their approach to the interview would be better informed. This would only serve to ensure the way in which solicitors advise their clients.

The critical issue for investigators is to realise that their attitude to solicitors, and

INNS AND OUTS

More of the eastern lure

WITH the Soviet Union showing signs of cracking at the seams, the eastern bloc is still an unknown and unattractive prospect for most businesses. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is trying to change all that with a £2 million initiative aimed at alerting British companies to the challenges and opportunities of trading links with the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

The eight founder members include two London law firms, Frere Cholmeley and S.J. Berwin. To avoid conflicts, the law firms have divided the region between them. Frere Cholmeley appears to have drawn the short straw with the two most economically unstable countries, Poland and the Soviet Union.

Uncertainty about the entire region was reflected by the weak response to the CBI's call for founder members.

While professionals and businesses were queuing up to pay £100,000 to join the recent CBI initiative 1992, the eight founder members of "Initiative Eastern Europe" were the only applicants. The intrepid eight will make seminar presentations and contribute to business guides on the four countries.

Tables turned

SO MUCH for the competitive threat of British law firms to lawyers in the rest of Europe. The Paris-based organisation *Membres des Professions Liberales* has forecast in a recent series of status reports that British solicitors could be the ones to suffer from the competition if they do not do something to improve standards of satisfaction among their clients. According to the reports, client dissatisfaction in Britain is higher than anywhere else in the European Community.

Class 'contracts'

THE usefulness of the concept of the "learning contract", well known in the teaching of law in the United States, will be discussed by the Association of Law Teachers at a conference to be held next

month at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

The learning contract involves an agreement into which students and lecturers enter and which involves obligations on both sides. The seminar will also examine whether any lessons can be learnt from the private legal-training sector. The seminar, entitled "Helping students to learn", will cover some of the points raised in the recent report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate, "A Survey of Undergraduate Legal Education".

New leaf

THE doyen of legal publishers, John Pritchard, of Legalcase, has signed a contract with the Bar Council for the publication of an official *Bar Directory*. This "definitive guide to barristers" will be published in the autumn by UK Law, a company in the Legalease group, and will aim to offer an "informative guide to the nature of the Bar and the services that it provides".

The Bar Council was apparently impressed by UK Law's publishing and marketing proposals. Could Mr Pritchard be the marketing saviour for whom the Bar has been waiting?

A firm marriage

THE transatlantic romance between British and American lawyers is continuing apace, with Theodore Goddard announcing its engagement to the New York law firm Dewey Ballantine. The two firms claim a "natural affinity".

Case of hearsay

ARE lawyers risking the wrath of God every time they send out a bill? In Missouri, Jackie Gordon is refusing to pay her lawyer, citing biblical authority in support of her case. She relies on Luke 11:45, which says: "And he said, 'Woe to you also lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers'."

This, she says, shows exactly what Jesus thought of lawyers. The court was unimpressed with her argument and ordered her to pay the lawyer, who successfully won her the custody of her granddaughter, but she is still refusing to budge.

SCRIVENOR

THE Environmental Protection Bill provides the framework of pollution control for "well into the next century", Chris Patten, the former environment secretary, said when he introduced the legislation in 1989. Developments are, however, already taking place in Britain and on the Continent that suggest that the Act is simply a stage on the way to more far-reaching environmental controls.

To Americans, this all looks familiar. A decade ago, environmental obligations became a preoccupation of American businesses, not least because the consequences of infringement are huge. It is not uncommon for companies to be faced with clean-up costs of hundreds of millions of dollars.

It is often claimed that Britain and the Continent are following the American lead. Every legal development, whether from national legislatures or from the European Community, is scrutinised to see how strong the parallels are with the American system. Developments are taking place that indicate that

America has become the model for European environmental protection

Putting up a clean fight

Europe, if not following the US in every respect, is at least going in the same direction.

Since the enactment of the Courts and Legal Services Act at the end of 1990, English lawyers are able to take cases on a "no win, no fee" basis.

Such an arrangement has been a potent force in enabling Americans to pursue environmental cases in the courts. A similarly potent force in the US is the citizen suit, whereby members of the public or of environmental pressure groups can bring civil actions, including those for injunctions, to prevent polluting activities.

This type of suit, which already exists in several European countries, is likely to spread as harmonisation of European laws

increases. In Britain, the Labour Party's recent environmental policy document, "An Earthly Chance", promises the introduction of citizen suits for environmental cases. In addition, the idea of extending the scope for "group" actions and the question of their funding are being reviewed by the Lord Chancellor's department.

The principle of "no fault" liability for environmental damage is gaining ground, most notably in the draft EC directive imposing liability for damage caused by waste. That proposed measure would create new torts of injury to the environment, the principle of which was recently accepted by the House of Lords' European Committee in its report on the draft directive. There have also been suggestions that Europe

may be driven to develop a "super fund" to finance environmental clean-ups, again a reflection of American law.

In other respects, Europe is ahead of the US. The government's environmental white paper, "This Common Inheritance", published last September, contains some pointers to future British legislation. It is now clear that the EC will increasingly use fiscal instruments, such as taxes or tradeable permits, to protect the environment.

Before the opening of the EC's Environment Council last December, the European Commission adopted a working document on political options to stabilise carbon dioxide emissions. The main option identified was a tax on energy sources, particularly fuels emitting

carbon dioxide. The document proposed that revenue raised by the new tax should finance ecological projects.

There are other measures in the pipeline. The commission is working on a directive requiring compulsory environmental auditing. The courts, following the judgment of the European Court in *Foster v British Gas*, are bound to widen the range of circumstances in which European directives may be held to be binding on government agencies and even companies.

New enforcement agencies are developing. Work is advancing in the EC on an eco-labelling scheme that could have enormous environmental potential to make or break product lines.

All these developments show that environmental issues will be a force shaping the worldwide economy in the 21st century.

ROBERT LEWIS AND PAUL BOWDEN

The authors are members of Freshfields' environment law group.

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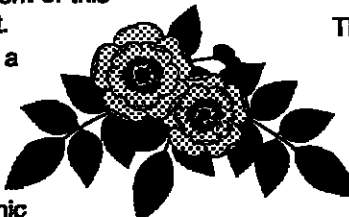
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COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

BASED IN HARROW

C.£35,000 + CAR + BENEFITS

Our client is a major financial institution involved in a broad range of lending activities throughout the United Kingdom and overseas.

To enhance operational efficiency the need has now arisen for an additional appointment within the Group legal function to broaden the services which it provides.

The requirement is for a high calibre individual to be primarily responsible for advising management on and carrying out all aspects of the recovery of substantial commercial secured loans ranging up to around £5M. Situations are often complex and the suitable candidate should have not less than five years' experience which must include secured recovery work, claims against guarantors and possession proceedings. There

may also be some professional negligence and straightforward debt collecting and the supervision of outside solicitors.

The person appointed is likely to be a solicitor with appropriate experience in a financial institution or a substantial firm of solicitors, but legal executives with relevant experience will be considered.

In addition to a competitive base salary, benefits will include a profit sharing scheme, non-contributory pension and life assurance, company car, mortgage scheme and BUPA.

Please contact Laurence Simons on 071 831 3270 (071 483 1899 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Laurence Simons Associates, 33 John's Mews, London WC1N 2NS. All approaches will be treated in strict confidence.

LAURENCE
SIMONS
ASSOCIATES

Legal Recruitment

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

CITY SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR'S
DEPARTMENT
CHIEF COMMON LAW CLERK
(REF NO 210)

PO26 £22473 - £24003 per annum

Experienced Legal Executives or Solicitors are invited to apply for the post of Chief Common Law Clerk in the City Secretary and Solicitor's Department. The postholder will manage a section of five staff (who are Legal Executives or Trained Legal Executives). The section deals with a wide range of legal work from preparation and advocacy for proceedings in the Magistrates', County and High Courts for the recovery of debts, repossession of land and prosecution of offences, to drafting and advising on contracts for building, civil engineering and other matters.

The postholder will also contribute to the management of the Department as a member of its management team. For an informal discussion about the post, please telephone Joanna Irwin, Deputy City Secretary and Solicitor on Oxford (0865) 252223.

Closing Date: 1st February 1991

Our generous benefits package includes:-

- Flexible hours
- Maternity/paternity support provisions
- Childcare subsidies
- Pension scheme
- Job share provision
- Generous relocation package up to £5500 in approved cases including where applicable mortgage assistance scheme

Application forms and further particulars are available from the Personnel Department, 28/31 St Ebbe's Street, Oxford, OX1 1EF. Telephone Oxford 252465. Your call will be received by an answerphone service.

We expect all our employees to have an understanding of and commitment to our equal opportunities policy

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

LAW REPORTERS

The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting seeks to recruit BARRISTERS who have completed pupillage or other suitably qualified lawyers as reporters for the Law Reports and the Weekly Law Reports. Opportunities for full-time reporting, particularly in the Chancery Division, and possibility of part-time reporting in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). Starting rate on full-time contract £15,500 per annum, with additional fees for reports prepared for The Times and other journals. Further details from Clive Scowen on 071-831 6664.

Applications in writing, enclosing full c.v. to: Robert Williams, Managing Editor, Weekly Law Reports, 9-13, Curzon Street (1st Floor), LONDON. EC4A 3LL.

LEGAL COSTS
DRAFTSMAN
CITY £25,000+

Medium-sized City practice seeks a senior Costs Draftsman. The successful individual will have at least 7 years' experience of dealing with complex billing procedures and related taxation aspects, preferably within a legal practice. He/she will be responsible for all billings and the running of the department, training of staff, etc. The salary will be commensurate with age and experience.

Reliance Legal - Target for Success

53 Doughty Street
London WC1N 2LS
Tel: (071) 405 4985
Fax: (071) 242 9288LAW REFORM
THE LAW COMMISSION
is looking for
RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

for a number of short-term posts (minimum duration 12 months) starting in September

to work on its variety of projects in the fields of
Common Law
Criminal Law
Family Law
Property Law
and
Statute Law Revision.

Applicants should have, or expect to gain this year, a law degree of at least upper second class. Experience of research work or of preparing a dissertation would be helpful but not essential. Salary in the region of £11000 (subject to review).

Further details and application forms from:

Louise Collet
The Law Commission
Conquest House
37/38 John Street
Theobalds Road
London
WC1N 2BQ
Tel: (071) 242 0861 ext. 210.
Closing date for applications:
Friday 15 February

SCHOLARSHIP TO
READ FOR THE BAR
£20,000

Established Common Law and Commercial set of Barristers Chambers offer a scholarship of £13,000 (up to £10,000 of which may be taken during the year at the Council of Legal Education)

The scholarship sum will be payable in addition to the standard pupillage award (currently £7,000 per annum)

Applications for Scholarship for pupillage Year October 1992-1993 to be made in writing by 31st January 1991 to

C. Moger
4 Pump Court
Temple
London EC4Y 7AN

accompanied by c.v., confidential academic reference, and specimen of written work (Brochure available on request)

A LEGAL ROLE IN THE
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY?
JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

Locum Solicitor

The Mowlem Group operates internationally in Building and Civil Engineering, and in the manufacture and supply of associated construction equipment and services.

Although this is a temporary position running from February to September there is a possibility of a permanent post. Based at our prestigious headquarters in Isleworth you will deal with an extensive range of legal matters. These include advising Group Companies, drafting agreements and letters, and giving management at all levels the benefit of your professional expertise in order to obtain maximum advantage for the organisation. Particular emphasis will be on handling contract disputes, their resolution and litigation.

The Group Legal Department at our headquarters in Isleworth and at Bracknell provides a wide variety of legal services to all members of the Group and the work is challenging and interesting.

Ideally you will need at least two years good practical experience with proven litigation skills. Knowledge of the construction industry, while useful, is not essential as this post offers an excellent ground floor opportunity for someone interested in making the construction industry their speciality.

To discover more about this position please write with full C.V. and indication of salary required to:- Betina Hamer, Corporate Head Office Personnel Manager, John Mowlem & Co. Plc., Westminster House, 21 Rugby Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 1DS. Tel: 081-891 1244.

Mowlem
mumGroup Company
Secretary

Harrogate

c. £40,000, 2 cars
excellent benefits

Appleyard

Appleyard Group PLC, the successful nationwide motor distributor (turnover \$450m+), has grown both organically and through acquisition and operates through several autonomous divisions. Impending retirement creates the need for a Group Company Secretary to be based at the Group Head Office in Harrogate.

The Role

- Provide legal advice throughout Group's activities including property transactions and litigation.
- Co-ordinate and administer all insurances and Group pension funds, maintain statutory records.
- Contribute effectively to ad hoc exercises including potential acquisitions and disposals in a Group which thrives on open management style.
- Represent company in liaison with external advisors.
- Report directly to Board.

The Qualifications

- Preferably a Solicitor and/or a qualified Company Secretary.
- Technical expertise, commercial judgement plus outstanding administrative flair.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Energetic. Strong personality. Hands-on style. Age 30-48.

Please reply in writing, enclosing full c.v. Ref: M470.

ASB
SELECTION

Amethyst House, Spring Gardens, Manchester M2 1EA. Tel: 061-834 0618. Fax: 061-832 9123.

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

071-481 4481

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

LONDON: 74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET MANCHESTER: 53 Princess Street, Manchester M2 4EQ

1974-1980-1991

Topparaphrase Tolstoy, all booming economies resemble one another, but each depressed economy is depressed in its own way. As a recruitment consultant I have seen three recessions: 1974-75, 1979-81, and 1990-?. Each one has affected the legal profession differently.

The downturn in 1974 came on with acute suddenness, hitting commercial property first, and putting hundreds of commercial conveyancers out of their jobs. The whole economy was subsequently affected, and lawyers in all disciplines suffered several hard years before a buoyant job-market reappeared in the late 1970s. The recession of 1979-81 was more localised, hitting the North and Midlands hardest, and manufacturing more than services. Solicitors in the South were not so badly affected, and we did not see many redundancies among conveyancers. The present recession has several features peculiar to itself: the service industries have been hit more than manufacturing, and London and the South East suffered a downturn before the rest of the country.

For the legal profession, the recession has meant a difficult moment. Many small firms are already in poor shape after two years without much residential conveyancing. And many large firms - having benefited from the boom - are overstaffed and occupying grand oversized offices. Among firms doing well at present are the medium-sized niche firms with flourishing areas of specialisation. They are now able to expand after several years in which growth was hampered by the unavailability of staff.

Michael Chambers

FINANCE: CITY

Excellent Salary
Solicitor with 4 years' experience to join financial institution handling equities/securities, swap documentation, and capital markets work.

COMPETITION LAW: LONDON

Salary Negotiable
Well-known company seeks UK and EC competition lawyer with 3 years' sound experience, to join legal team.

DO YOU HAVE A FOLLOWING?

You don't need a large following to be in demand. We have clients seeking solicitors with their own clientele in most disciplines.

INDUSTRY & BANKING

LEISURE GROUP: LONDON

to £30,000 package
Leading leisure group seeks lawyer with two years' experience to handle commercial contracts and some company secretarial work.

CONSTRUCTION: SOUTH EAST

to £30,000
Solicitor or Barrister with up to 2 yrs' experience to join well-known construction group. Broad range of contract, contracts and joint ventures.

HI-TECH: SOUTH EAST

Excellent Salary
Well-known international corporation seeks commercial lawyer with c.4 yrs' experience, ideally with some exposure to hi-tech work.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Private Client: Central London
At least 3 yrs qual. Leading practice seeks high-calibre solicitor with relevant experience.

Co-Commercial: Holborn
Niche firm with excellent corporate clientele seeks young solicitor for flourishing co/comm dept.

Insolvency/Asset Finance: Dorset
Rare opening with 6-year firm handling mainly residential property. **Excellent Salary**

Commercial Property: Holborn
Flourishing property dept seeks two able NQ solicitors with first-class property experience.

Construction Law: Birmingham
Prestigious firm seeks 2-4 yr qual solr. Mixed workload, but emphasis on litigation.

Company/Commercial: West Sussex
Dynamic young lawyer up to 2 yrs qual to join expanding, highly-regarded commercial dept.

Construction Litigation: City
1-2 yrs qualified litigator to join well-known and expanding construction dept.

Corporate Lawyer: Newcastle
Outstanding salary for ambitious solr with leading commercial firm. **Definite prospects.**

Pensions Lawyer: City
Top tier firm seeks solr/barrister for est. pensions dept. **Extensive client contact.**

Commercial Property: Hants/Dorset
High-calibre property lawyers to join respected South Coast practices. **c.£18-30,000.**

Medical Negligence: Manchester
Major specialist firm opening for solicitor with 2-3 years good quality experience.

Corporate Tax: City
1-3 yrs qual. Successful tax practice with niche commercial firm. **Blue-chip client-base.**

London: 071-606 9371 (Fax: 071-600 1793) Manchester: 061-228 2122 (Fax: 061-228 2213)

PRINCIPAL LAWYERS

Challenging opportunities to implement change

London

c. £33,000

Since the abolition of the GLC and ILEA, our client, a busy London Borough, has become responsible for virtually all the local government services within its area. The introduction of competition into some areas of the council's responsibility and increased emphasis on customer care has meant that the authority has had to implement some fundamental changes, particularly in the Legal Department which now consists of five departments, and the Borough now seeks to recruit a senior lawyer to head up each department and report directly to the Chief Solicitor. Each position requires a lawyer qualified through extensive experience, or as a solicitor with around four years' relevant background to manage each of the following departments:

LITIGATION
Conduct major litigation and to provide advice to the Council on general prosecutions, contract disputes, debt collection, insurance and claims against the Council.

SOCIAL SERVICES
To provide legal advice on policy, new legislation, care proceedings, fostering and adoption, wardship and any other legal matters.

PROPERTY AND PLANNING
To provide a comprehensive legal service in all matters relating to property and planning issues, including disposals and acquisitions for development

or otherwise, business tenancies and grants and loans to businesses and voluntary organisations.

CORPORATE AND EDUCATION

To manage a staff of four lawyers in this new department, providing a legal service on compulsory competitive tendering, employment, education and any corporate policy issues not covered by other sections of the Legal Division

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

To provide the Council with legal advice on policy, new legislation, homelessness, housing act appeals, housing benefits, rent arrears and squatting to name but a few.

Each position carries a great deal of responsibility and represents an exciting opportunity to play a major role in the development of local government in 1990's.

Interested candidates should send their CV together with remuneration details, day and home telephone numbers, quoting ref. C0958/2/T, to: Anna Ponton at the address below, stating clearly which position or positions they are applying to. Closing date for applications is February 1st 1991.

OUR CLIENT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.

KPMG Selection & Search
70 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1EU

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS



Somerset County Council

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

COUNTY TREASURER

SALARY UP TO £51,531 P.A.

We are looking for a new County Treasurer to succeed Ron Foskett who is retiring in July 1991.

Somerset County Council employs approximately 17,000 people and has a gross budget of approximately £330M.

Our new County Treasurer must be enthusiastic, innovative and stimulated by the opportunity to lead the County Treasurer's Department into the challenges of the 1990s. As a member of the Chief Executive's Management Team you will have a commitment to supporting the County Council to attain its short and long term objectives.

You should be able to demonstrate exceptional leadership and management skills, proven professional financial expertise and a track record of successfully managing change.

In return for your skills we are offering an excellent remuneration package including assistance with relocation to this most attractive area.

For an informal discussion about the duties of the post, please contact Ron Foskett on (0823) 255201.

For an information pack and application form please write to Paula Passmore, Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Somerset County Council, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY.

Closing date: 15 February 1991.

ASSISTANT SOLICITORS

Full-time - Ref. L001

Part-time - Ref. L002

£19,059 - £25,095

The Regional Health Authority covers 19 Districts, serving a population of over 4 million. Based in the Litigation Department of the Regional Solicitor's Office, these posts will deal primarily with personal injury claims alleging medical negligence in the High Court. The work is demanding, but interesting and challenging.

Experience will determine the starting salary, and newly qualified solicitors are welcome to apply. In-service training is available.

For an informal discussion, contact Mr. E. G. Jones, Regional Solicitor, on 061-237 2171.

For an application form and job description please telephone 061-236 3312 (24 hour answerphone) quoting appropriate reference number. Closing date: 4th February 1991.

Job share applicants welcome. We are an equal opportunities employer.

NORTH WESTERN

REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

CHAMBERS OF F. ASHE LINCOLN Q.C.

9, Kings Bench Walk, Temple EC4Y 7DX

We are a long established Common Law set of chambers.

Recent alterations to our rooms now allows us to expand. Applications are invited from practitioners called before 1985, although promising applicants of more recent call will be considered. Group applications would be favoured.

We operate a traditional effective Clerking system.

Please feel free to approach any current member of chambers in confidence, to discuss your application or write to F. Ashe Lincoln Q.C.

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING WITH APPROX 2 YEARS POST QUALIFICATION EXPERIENCE REQUIRED BY WEST END SOLICITORS TO HANDLE A VOLUME OF INTERESTING AND VARIED WORK. EXCELLENT SALARY AND PLEASANT CONDITIONS. PLEASE REPLY TO BOX NO 2488

DISSENTING Young lawyer. Ideally with exp. of some soliciting. Call and discuss. Reply to: 2488. Law. Personal. 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

LEGAL EXEC. Commercial practice. Need an experienced exec. for property/mortgage. Call. 242 1281 (24hrs).

PERSONAL INJURY Modern claims legal executive needed for established central London firm. Sal. c. £17,000. Law. Personal. 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

PRIVATE CLIENT Leading West Country firm need a solr with rel exp including tax planning and company law. Up to 6 years PQE. Please info. Personal. 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

WETTING Thriving litigation team requires extra member, 2 to 4 years PQE. Please info. Personal. 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

SCOTTISH solicitors. Several leading practices seek Scottish qualified solrs with exp. in Corporate and/or Commercial Property. Reply to: 2488. Law. Personal. 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

SMALL FIRM Friendly West End practice requires solr with rel exp. Reply to: 2488. Law. Personal. 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

TRUSTS/PROBATE Solicitor. c. 3 yrs PQ and exp 30 or under. Reply to: 2488. Law. Personal. 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

UNEMPLOYED Solicitors. Several unadvertised vacancies throughout England and Wales from HQ to several years PQE. New Personal. 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

THE ROYAL NATIONAL THROAT NOSE & EAR HOSPITAL
Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
(Salary Negotiable)

The Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital centre of excellence, is a postgraduate teaching hospital in central London and will be a first world NHS Trust on 1st April 1991. Until then we are operating as a Shadow Trust. The Hospital has facilities to accommodate up to 90 in-patients as well as 60,000 out-patients per annum in this specialty.

We are seeking to recruit a Chief Executive to lead in the corporate development of the hospital as a Trust for the future.

This will be a pressured role for which you will need high level financial and management skills. These will preferably, but not necessarily, have been gained against a background of health care management.

You will lead the development and implementation of policies, strategies and systems which support and assist the cost effective management of the hospital.

Well developed communication skills will be required to communicate successfully with purchasers of our services and at all levels of the organisation. Informal enquiries may be made to Mr A.D. Cheesman, General Manager/Acting Shadow Trust Chief Executive, Telephone 071 837 8855 ext 4015. Interested applicants should submit a CV with full personal, career and salary details to Mrs Sheila Nash, Shadow Trust Personnel Director, Telephone 071 837 8855 ext 4132.

Closing date 25th January 1991. Interviews will be held at the beginning of February 1991.

An employer committed to equal opportunities. (5408)A

The Wellcome Trust

Grants Officer

The Wellcome Trust, Britain's largest charity devoted to general medical research, requires a Grants Officer to assist in the administration of the Trust's research programme.

Duties will include the processing of grant applications, drafting correspondence and the maintenance of financial statistics and budgets. The ideal candidate will probably be a graduate with a strong administrative background, ideally in the medical or academic sphere.

Salary will be on a rising scale from £14,445 - £19,265 p.a. A non-contributory pension scheme and 23 days' annual leave are among the excellent benefits.

Written applications, including a full CV, daytime telephone number and the names of two referees, should be sent to Miss D. Carty, The Wellcome Trust, 1 Park Square West, London NW1 4LJ, by 28 January 1991. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 6 February 1991.

LEGAL

ASSISTANT HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

With experience of Highways & Planning Law
Up to £34,392 inclusive

Surrey is rapidly developing and putting in place a management style and ethos to meet the needs of the 90s. We need an enthusiastic and motivated person keen to take up the challenge of being a demonstrably successful lawyer within a new and evolving environment.

Applications are invited from experienced Solicitors, ambitious and able to play a major role both in providing effective legal support, principally to the County's "environment" departments, and in contributing to the overall management and development of the Legal Services Division at County Hall, Kingston.

You will have a direct responsibility for a team of 10, including solicitors, CPO clerks and support staff and as a member of the

management team you will also have direct input to policy development and management. You should have at least six years' post admission experience with substantial experience of Highways and Planning law and a proven record of management capabilities.

Our benefits package is amongst the most extensive in Local Government - we provide a car, BUPA cover, disturbance allowance and meet the full cost of relocation. A mortgage subsidy scheme may be available.

Application form and further details from Personnel Services Division, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2BH.

Tel: 081 541 9790 quoting ref PSD1.

Closing date: 31st January 1991.



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

A mental illness cure straight from the art

Great art bars the soul of the artist, but in the world of art therapy even the humblest painting can be the first step towards exposing and resolving mental and personality problems.

Sarah Deco, an art therapist, says: "I remember one boy whose main interest was fashion. His drawings were very slick, with bright colours. Then one day he drew a figure sitting outside a cemetery: 'the lost soul', he said. That was very moving and the moment when art therapy could start to help him."

At the time Miss Deco was working in her first job in an adolescent unit. Now, as head of the art therapy department in the psychiatric wing of St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey, she supervises group and individual sessions for some of the 90 in-patients and 70 day patients.

Miss Deco describes art therapy as "an aid to recovery based on psychoanalytic principles". The images expressed in painting can be the key to an improvement in mental health. Miss Deco works with medical staff and psychiatric consultants trying to increase awareness of art therapy.

Art therapists can help people get their problems out of their system with a paintbrush, Bernardine Coverley writes

"There are a lot of myths and false ideas. It isn't a leisure activity, so we run workshops for nursing students and trainee doctors." This training is important because many patients are referred by psychiatrists, nurses, occupational therapists and doctors, who should be able to assess whether art therapy is appropriate.

Art therapy is particularly suitable for people who find it difficult to talk about what is happening to them or those who tend to intellectualise processes. Using art media—drawing, painting and sculpture—with the therapist's guidance helps the patients to a better understanding of themselves and their situation.

The patient may be someone with emotional difficulties, long-term mental illness or mental handicap. Art therapy can also be helpful with children and young people and is sometimes used in schools.

The roots of art as therapy go back to the Forties when, as part of post-war rehabilitation programmes, artists worked with returning prisoners of war and soldiers suffering shell shock. There also existed a branch of psychoanalysis which used paintings and drawings as an aid to reaching and understanding the subconscious and unconscious layers of the mind.

Art therapy grew from the experience that art could be a powerful means of healing, which actively involved the patient.

While the National Health Service is by far the biggest employer of therapists, family centres, prisons and special schools also use them. In local social services art therapists are employed under other job titles.

This will change soon, as therapists now have their own Witley Council grading and pay scales. There is also to be

a state register of art therapists as there is for other professions. This gives recognised approval of professional standards and Dr Diane Waller of the British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT) believes both these steps will be especially important as hospitals opt out and as community care replaces hospital treatment.

Dr Waller, who is also head of the Art Psychotherapy Department at Goldsmiths' College, London University, which runs one of the three postgraduate courses, says: "With prospective students we look for people with plenty of life experience, who have worked for at least one year full time and, preferably, also have a personal understanding of some form of therapy."

For information pack, send a stamped, addressed envelope to the British Association of Art Therapists, 11a Richmond Road, Brighton BN2 3RL. Postgraduate courses: Herfordshire College of Art & Design, 7 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3RS; University of London, Goldsmiths' College, Art Therapy Unit, 25 St James, New Cross, London SE14 3NW; University of Sheffield, Floor 2, Dept. of Psychiatry, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Glossop Road, Sheffield.



THE ART therapy department attached to St Bernards, Ealing Hospital, west London is housed in a low, one-storey building. Two studios provide a quiet setting for the sessions that take place every morning from 9.30am to 12 noon. The white walls are hung with recent paintings, clay models crowd the shelves and constructions hang from the ceiling.

Alan Dunn (above) is one of a team of three art therapists. He has worked there for six years and previous jobs include work in a youth custody centre. His first career was in design and after ten years in the commercial world he went to college to study fine art. While working in a hostel

he was encouraged to look for a way to use his art in a social context. Changing direction meant returning to study on the postgraduate Art Therapy course at Hertfordshire College of Art & Design, St Albans.

The department is part of the hospital and is also used by outpatients. People are referred there for art therapy and join in the open group sessions. One therapist works with the elderly at a mental health centre and Mr Dunn runs a session at a day centre.

Mr Dunn's mornings are devoted to group work in the studios. "Making things, or painting and

reflecting on this as a group can be a way of exploring feelings in some depth," Mr Dunn says. "When preoccupations can be channelled into images you can see the change from trying to control to exploring and discovering."

The aims of each group are different. Art therapy can help those from the rehabilitation ward to prepare for moving out of hospital either into the community or to a smaller institution.

The length of the session and the creative atmosphere help to make client and therapist friends. Mr Dunn offers comments and

encourages discussion and there is enough time to sit down with people and look through paintings from previous sessions.

Mr Dunn says: "When there are difficult, alarming feelings being dealt with, expressing them in the painting is the important part and it is not always appropriate to comment at the time."

The rest of the working day includes writing reports for the wards when someone is about to leave hospital, updating notes to monitor people who may attend for two or three years, staff meetings and studio organisation.

"Clients invest a lot with us. There are some very special moments," he says.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (MARKETING)

(up to £23,000 + Car + Performance Related Pay)

Are you an experienced, dynamic and creative marketing professional with knowledge of the tourism industry looking to tackle the challenge of marketing Britain's premier resort?

If so, the Torbay Tourist Board is looking for an Assistant Director (Marketing) to continue the resorts innovative and award winning marketing effort, and to help further develop tourism business to the English Riviera.

The post will be responsible to the Director of Tourism & Marketing and will entail effective management of the staff, budgets and activities of the Torbay Tourist Board and the development of

conference and tourism business, special events and the generation of commercial income.

The person will probably be 30-45 years of age, excited by the challenge, educated to degree level, and marketing or business qualifications will be an added advantage.

In addition to our competitive remuneration package, we can offer a highly attractive relocation scheme.

Closing Date: Monday 28th January 1991

For further details and an application form please contact Personnel at Torbay Borough Council, Town Hall, Torquay, TQ1 3DL. Tel: (0803) 296244 Ext 2044 or Direct Line (0803) 218044.



WILTSHIRE Community Unit

FINANCE, MANAGER

Ref: 78/AC/24

SALARY: SENIOR MANAGERS PAY £24,420 + PRP AND LEASE CAR

The Wiltshire Community Unit cover 10 Community Hospitals and 10 Clinics in North and West Wiltshire, together with maternity and therapy services throughout the Bath Health District.

This post offers the opportunity to participate in the management of the Unit at Board level, together with responsibility for the development of financial management for a Unit with approximately 1400 employees and a £20 million budget.

The role of Finance Manager is to provide financial support to the Management Board, contribute to the development of Unit strategies and objectives, and provide information for effective resource management.

We require a qualified accountant, willing to accept the challenges and responsibilities involved in leading a team to develop our financial services (GLM accounting and manpower systems have been installed).

The post will be based in the Wiltshire market town of Trowbridge and a leased car scheme is in operation.

For informal enquiries please contact Alan Connor, General Manager, on Trowbridge (0225) 753610.

For application form and information pack please contact the Personnel Department, Wiltshire Community Unit, St John's Hospital, Bradley Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 0QU. Tel: 0225 753608 (24-hour answering service available).

Closing date: 28th January 1991.

Interviews will be held on 7th and 8th February 1991.



HEALTH CARE

ROCKHAMPTON BASE HOSPITAL QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

The following Registrar/House Officer positions are available from the given dates:-

Obstetrics - (2 D.O.R.A.C.O.G. positions) - 01.04.91.
Medicine - 29.04.91 (1x), 01.07.91 (x2) and 02.09.91 (1x)
Anaesthetics - immediately
Psychiatry - 01.07.91

Previous experience in specialties above preferred

Tenure 6 or 12 months. One way economy air-fare refundable on completion of 12 months service.

Other House Officer positions are available - 3 month rotating terms.

Application, curriculum vitae and 3 references addressed to Medical Superintendent, Rockhampton Base Hospital, Canning Street, Rockhampton, Queensland 4700, Australia or Fax (079) 221046 or phone (079) 316211.

PUBLIC FINANCE

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE COMMITTEE ACCOUNTANT/SENIOR ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT POLICE HEADQUARTERS INVERNESS

Salary: AP V/PO(a) £15,102 - £18,318

Applications are invited for the above newly created professional post based at Police Headquarters, Inverness.

The salary scale AP V/PO(a) requires a recognised relevant professional qualification in Accountancy. A relevant HNC qualification with two years post qualifying experience is the requirement for the AP V salary scale.

The responsibilities of the post are of an accounting/administrative nature and the principal duties involve assisting with the in-house management and monitoring of the Force Budget and its expenditure. Liaison with the Treasurers Department, Highland Regional Council is an important element in the duties which include the Annual Revenue Budget and Capital Expenditure Plan.

A knowledge of computer based financial systems would be advantageous.

Assistance towards removal and legal expenses will be payable in accordance with a scheme approved by the Northern Joint Police Committee.

Application Forms and Job Specification may be obtained from the Personnel Department, Police Headquarters, Inverness to whom completed forms should be returned not later than 25 January 1991.

NEWCASTLE HEALTH AUTHORITY NEWCASTLE GENERAL HOSPITAL UNIT

UNIT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & INFORMATION (Attractive Salary negotiable according to experience)

The successful candidate will demonstrate the potential to achieve a top management position. You will be a dynamic, qualified accountant with senior management experience and will take responsibility for the Financial Management and Information Directorate within this complex organisation.

Newcastle General Hospital is the largest hospital in the region with approximately 1,000 beds, 2,800 staff and a revenue budget of \$44 million.

You will play a key role in the management of the Unit at Senior Level and you will be a member of the Unit Management Board.

Informal enquiries will be welcomed by Charles Marshall, Director General Manager or Steve Hopkins, Tel: 091 2738811 ext 22770

For job package contact the Personnel Department, Newcastle General Hospital, Watgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 6BE. Tel: 091 2738811 ext 22804/22883. Closing date: 1st February 1991

NEWCASTLE HEALTH

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

HEAD OF REGISTRATION SECTION £20,525 - £23,815 PER ANNUM

The General Medical Council is the statutory body responsible for regulating the medical profession.

As a result of an internal promotion we are seeking to recruit an experienced manager to head the Registration Section of the division responsible for the registration of doctors who qualified outside the European Community. This is a senior post, with responsibility for 23 administrative and clinical staff and requires excellent management and communication skills.

The successful candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 8 years' administrative experience, preferably in the public sector, and will be familiar with the implementation of statutory procedures. Experience of budgetary control and a familiarity with computerised information systems is essential.

For further information please contact:-

Personnel Division
General Medical Council
44 Hellen Street, London W1N 6AE
Tel: 071 580 7642 (Ext. 3123)

Closing date for completed applications: 8th February 1991.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF POST OFFICE AND BRITISH TELECOM PENSIONERS VACANCY FOR

ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

Applications are invited for the Post of Assistant General Secretary/Treasurer at the Headquarters of the National Federation of Post Office and British Telecom Pensioners located in Luton, Bedfordshire.

The appointment will occur around MARCH/APRIL 1991.

The Federation has a membership of over 112,000 in 250 branches throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The applicant should possess the ability to represent Federation Policy in correspondence and at meetings. Experience of accounting procedures is essential as the successful applicant will be responsible for the maintaining and presentation of Federation Accounts. He/she will also be responsible for overseeing the computerised membership records.

A reasonable comprehension of pensions legislation is not essential, but this would be an advantage. A firm belief and interest in all pensioner matters however is essential.

Commencing salary is £17,000 rising to £18,000 by incremental progression after completion of a satisfactory probationary period of a year.

The normal retirement age is 65 years.

Further details may be obtained from:

Mrs GAY APPELEY
General Secretary
NFFO/BTP, Cuckoo Court, 64 Alma Street, Luton, Beds. LU1 2PR
Telephone (0582) 459105
Closing date for completed applications is 25th January 1991.

LONDON BOROUGH of LAMBETH . LONDON BOROUGH of LAMBETH

Two of the most exciting challenges in local government today

Lambeth is a vibrant, colourful and interesting South London borough, facing all the challenges of the inner city. It has a lively multi-cultural, multi-racial community who are active in working with their Council to improve the local environment and quality of people's lives.

The Council is reorganising its management structure at directorate level, principally to meet these challenges and to fulfil its commitment to providing good quality public and personal services to all sections of the community.

Lambeth Council, under its new management, represents an exciting challenge to any senior manager.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE £50,000 plus

financial affairs calls for an ability to lead and motivate a large multi-racial workforce, while working closely with elected members to achieve value for money and quality assurance, and contributing fully to the promotion of corporate policies on equal opportunities, racial equality, anti-poverty and community participation. Ref: CEO/117.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES £50,000 plus

Services will bring together the existing DLOs and DSOs covering building repairs and maintenance, highways, sewers and lighting maintenance, street cleaning, refuse collection, catering, buildings cleaning, the maintenance of cemetery grounds and central purchasing. The new directorate will also be required to tender for vehicle maintenance in the next round of CCT. All contractor services must meet client/customer requirements and operate within a cost efficient management regime.

As its director, the Council intends appointing an experienced manager committed to its public services objectives, who is capable of running a range of diverse operations and leading a dedicated multi-racial workforce in a progressive corporate and integrated management environment. Ref: CEO/118.

If you have the stamina, capability and commitment, and are keen to work with an energetic new management team carrying forward new initiatives, these are opportunities not to be missed.

We have set a timetable for implementing these changes and wish to appoint Directors as quickly as possible.

Apply now for further details and an application form. Contact Irene Clarke, Personnel & Training Manager, London Borough of Lambeth, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RW. Telephone: 071-926 2580. Please quote the appropriate reference number.

Application forms to be returned by 1st February 1991.

As part of the Council's equal opportunity employment policy applications are invited from people regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex, responsibility for children or dependants and from lesbians and gay men. Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities who are under-represented among the Council's staff.



LONDON BOROUGH of LAMBETH . LONDON BOROUGH of LAMBETH

D.E.P. Disability & Employment Project in Homelessness & Finance PROJECT MANAGER

£17,898 - £19,155 (Inc L.W.) (L.A.S.C.P. 33-36)

The main aim of the Project is to create employment opportunities to people with disabilities with local employers in the Public and Private Sectors.

You need to:

Be a disabled person or have personal experience of disability. Develop a network of employers, employment agencies and disabled people. Manage a budget. Have an understanding of the private and public sectors. Be committed to promoting equality of opportunity.

For further information and a copy of job description contact us on 071-386 6178 or write to Jane Wilson, D.E.P. The Pavilion, 1 Broad Street, London W14 8LY. Please advise us what we should do to make our information or interview fully accessible to you.

We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity and welcome applications from all members of the community. Closing date: 28th January, 1991. Interviews will take place on Monday, February 11, 1991.

GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHE £26,000-£37,000

Under the supervision of the Agent General for Quebec in London, the Administrative Attache is responsible for personnel, financial, material and information management.

The Administrative Attache will provide support to the Agent General, the Counsellors as well as to the locally recruited staff, and liaise on behalf of the Quebec Government Office with the British and Quebec Governments.

The candidate must have a management related University degree as well as experience in the relevant fields of human, financial, material and information management. Knowledge of French is essential.

Please forward resume before 28 January 1991 to:

Mr Richard Dupont
Counsellor, Administrative and
Tourism,
Quebec Government Office
59 Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5JH.

[Faint, illegible handwritten notes]

By **STUART JONES**, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

fixture." That, regrettably, will be less practical once the first division has been increased to 22 clubs.

McMenemy rejected the suggestion that the Italians, who expect a crowd of more than 40,000 (augmented by 15,000 students who are to be admitted free of charge) will turn the affair to an uncompetitive exhibition. "Pride will be at stake, so I'm sure they will be giving their best."

The League squad is not at full strength. Bryan Robson, Gary Lineker, Paul Gascoigne and David Platt will be on domestic duty in the Rumbelows Cup. Stuart Pearce, Des Walker and Ian Wright are involved in the FA Cup. Kevin Ratcliffe, one of the replacements, has withdrawn because of an ankle. Keith Curle, of Wimbledon, was belatedly summoned yesterday morning to provide defensive cover. "We know that he must be fresh because he has just come back after a three-match suspension," McMenemy said. He would reveal only that Mark Wright will lead a line-up which is to be announced today.

"He's shown that he has the qualities at Derby County

The fine was imposed by league officials at the request of Naples. The club is also insisting that Maradona fulfil his contract, which runs through to the end of the 1992-3 season.

Maradona is known to have received big offers from French and Japanese clubs, but he told reporters yesterday: "By the end of the year I want to return to Argentina . . . I don't want to play in any other part of the world."

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL BY KETH BLACKMORE

result for Raymond Goethals in the first league match, as coach but he will no doubt remember that the brief, unhappy reign of his predecessor, Franz Beckenbauer, also began well, with a 5-1 win against Dynamo Tiras in the first Dnepro Cup in September.

Auxerre fell from second place by losing 2-1 to St Etienne, allowing Monaco, who beat Nantes by the same score, to move up to second place. Bordeaux, who continue to resist making a declaration of bankruptcy (and thus automatic relegation) drew with Metz.

Juventus moved to the top in Italy after a 2-0 win against Fiorentina. Cagliari scored three and Saggio the others, making him the joint leading scorer in the league with nine goals.

Marinus of Internazionale, who has been in the original

settles; 32, AS Monaco; 26; 3, Azusa, 27.

GREEK: AEK Athens 1, Olympikos 2; Iraklis 2, Solon 3, Apollon Athens 2; Ioannina 1, Panserikos 0; Doris Drama 1, Iraklis 1; Ionikos 1, Levadiakos 0; Karthi 2, Panathinaikos 0. OFI Arta 1, Panathinaikos 0, Larissa 0, Apollon 0, PAOK Salonika 1, Athinaios 0. Leading positions (after 15 matches): 1. Panathinaikos, 2. Iraklis, 3. AEK Athens, 17.

ITALIAN: Cagliari 0, Bologna 0; Cosmos 0, Parma 1; Lazio 0, Internazionale 0; Lecce 1, Sampdoria 0; Milan 2, Bari 0; Naples 1, Roma 1; Fiorentina 1, Juventus 5, Fiorentina 1; Genoa 2, Atalanta 0. Leading positions: 1. Juventus, played 18, 22; 2. Fiorentina, 16; 3. Lazio, 15, 21.

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Athlone 1, Waterford United 1; Cork City 1,

[illegible]

Bath as reward for their 3-2 win at Barnet.

Gretna Town, of the Northern League, are going to take the first point of England for the first time, go to Horwich RMI, of the HFS Loans League, after winning at Macclesfield Town, of the Conference, on Saturday.

Runcorn travel to take on the winners of the postponed tie between the two teams. Exeter of the HFS League, and Colchester United, first-time entrants to the competition after being relegated from the Football League, which is being played tonight.

Dover Athletic, the Beazer Homes League champions, were denied entry to the Conference by the Football Conference Harriers away.

SECOND-ROUND DRAW: Carnation Athletic v Darford v Greenstead and Northampton Town v Weymouth; Runcorn v Colchester Utd v Runcorn; Kidderminster Harriers v Dover Athletic.

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HIGH ROUTE EDGE



welterweight champion 31 and then British middleweight champion, said: "Laing has got to sometime and Del and I won't be sitting here if we didn't think we had a chance."

Britain's former world welterweight champion, Lloyd Honeyghan, said he would not fight Laing. "I am not going to fight a man who has won a world title challenge. His son Maurice Blocker's world Bantamweight crown. 'I am determined [Laing] does not finish his fight without fighting for a world title. Whether he wins it or not would be up to him,'" Duff said.

Even though Honeyghan under £10,000 for his bout with Olmedo, it is unlikely that he

By KEITH MACKLEN

by has remained faithful who have served him campaigns against New Zealand in seasons. He is forced to leave Gregory and Paul who are injured, and is back row forward, while serving a such suspension.

is also no place for two who had high hopes of the squad, Alan Tait, and the first choice, and Warrington, hoped to play himself growing responsibility.

International Panel, & Edwards (Cambridge), C. Gibson (Oxford), J. Hoggins (Oxford), D. Powell (Oxford) (London), A. Smith (Oxford), G. Smith (Oxford), E. Heston (Oxford), L. Mackay (Oxford), E. Heston (Oxford), E. Heston (Oxford).

By RICHARD EATON

DESMOND Douglas, the most successful Englishman since the 1950s, yesterday announced his retirement from international play. At 35, he feels he has not reached a record time to retire and defends. He was a leading team member of the England team that won a bronze medal in the world championships in April. And he says he does not have the competition, he feels, because of this refusal to sign the stringent conditions of contract imposed by the British Association earlier this season.

It is partly on a bitter note, therefore, that Douglas is going out. His disagreement with the B.A. chairman John Chapman, Lord Preen, eventually took a toll. "If you're heart is not completely in it, it is better to stop," Douglas said.

However, he has also stopped at a time when his best was almost as good as ever, even if regular defeats by second-rate players in an international arena. He is still the English national champion to date, having won a record 17 titles in 16 years. He was a leading team member of the England team that won a bronze medal in the world championships in April. And he says he does not have the competition, he feels, because of this refusal to sign the stringent conditions of contract imposed by the British Association earlier this season.

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However, he has also stopped at a time when his best was almost as good as ever, even if regular defeats by second-

BASKETBALL				ICE HOCKEY				RACKETS				TENNIS			
ALL-STAR BASKETBALL (Final)				NATIONAL LEAGUE (Final)				BOSTON: United States				MELBOURNE: Australian Open			
United States	127	127	127	Edmonton Oilers	4	4	4	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Canada	127	127	127	Montreal Canadiens	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Quebec Nordiques	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	St. Louis Blues	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Edmonton Oilers	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	Montreal Canadiens	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Quebec Nordiques	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	St. Louis Blues	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Edmonton Oilers	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	Montreal Canadiens	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Quebec Nordiques	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	St. Louis Blues	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Edmonton Oilers	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	Montreal Canadiens	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Quebec Nordiques	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	St. Louis Blues	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Edmonton Oilers	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	Montreal Canadiens	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Quebec Nordiques	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	St. Louis Blues	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Edmonton Oilers	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	Montreal Canadiens	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Quebec Nordiques	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	St. Louis Blues	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Edmonton Oilers	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	Montreal Canadiens	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Quebec Nordiques	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	St. Louis Blues	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1
Sweden	127	127	127	Edmonton Oilers	1	1	1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1	USA	3-1	3-1	3-1
Finland	127	127	127	Montreal Canadiens	1	1	1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1	Canada	3-1	3-1	3-1</

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ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): St. Louis Blues: Montreal Canadiens, 1; Edmonton Oilers: Vancouver Canucks, 1; New York Rangers: Hartford Whalers, 3; New York Islanders: Philadelphia Flyers, 1; Los Angeles Kings: Calgary Flames, 3; Chicago Black Hawks: Minnesota North Stars, 1.

WALEES CONFERENCE
Public relations

	W	L	D	Pts
New York Rangers	24	10	7	53
Pittsburgh Penguins	24	20	3	49
Philadelphia Flyers	23	21	4	48
New Jersey Devils	19	18	9	42
Washington Capitals	21	23	6	48
New York Islanders	19	23	6	42

Admission schedule

Boston Bruins	23	15	8	54
Montreal Canadiens	22	17	9	51
Buffalo Sabres	17	17	10	44
Hartford Whalers	19	22	5	41
Quebec Nordiques	19	22	8	39

CAMPBELL CONFERENCE
Public relations

	W	L	Pts
Chicago Black Hawks	31	3	65
St. Louis Blues	25	18	48
Detroit Red Wings	20	23	41
Minnesota North Stars	12	27	25
Toronto Maple Leafs	12	29	24

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Seattle division			
Los Angeles Legion	24	17	5
Calgary Flames	24	17	5
Edmonton Oilers	21	22	4
Vancouver Canucks	19	25	4
Winnipeg Jets	21	23	4

REAL TENNIS

BOSTON: United States open championship
 Quarterfinals (4 sets unless noted): 1. Andre
 Augst (R) 6-4, 6-3, 5-3, 6-1; M. Gronding (b)
 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 2. D. Bost (b) 6-3, 6-4,
 M. Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 3. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 4. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 5. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 6. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 7. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 8. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 9. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 10. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 11. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 12. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 13. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 14. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 15. J. H.
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 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 46. J. H.
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 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 48. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 49. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 50. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 51. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 52. J. H.
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 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 62. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 63. J. H.
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 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 65. J. H.
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 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 70. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 71. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 72. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 73. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 74. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 75. J. H.
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 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 99. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 100. J. H.
 Haggall (A) 6-3, 6

RUGBY LEAGUE

OFFSHOOT BRITISH AMATEUR LEAGUE
First division: Salford/Barnsley, 10; Pilkington
West Hull 2, Leigh Minors 30; Wootton 2, 3
2.

SALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: Barrow 2,
Dunston 2; 5, Buxley 32, Rochdale 34
Dewsbury 3, 2; 1, 2; 1, 2; 1, 2; 1, 2; 1, 2;
Kingsley 5, Swinton 44, Trafford 15.

SKIKING

BLACKGOM, British Columbia World Cup
1st, Hans Raths (Austria) 1:17.0; 2nd, Raths
(Nor), 30.25; 3rd, J. R. Hultberg (Can), 28.9
3, R. Franco (U.S.), 28.40; 4th, Hultberg
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165th, J. R. Hultberg (Nor), 28.40; 166th, J. R. Hultberg
(Nor), 28.40; 167th, J. R. H

[illegible]

By MITCHELL PLATT

Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, the president of the Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "We are extremely pleased to be sponsoring such a popular event which has a unique place in world golf and is truly international in content and appeal."

The Inaugural World Matchplay championship was first held in 1964 since when the list of winners has become a veritable who's who of international golf with Gary Player (five times), Severiano Ballesteros (four), Greg Norman (three), Arnold Palmer (two), Ian Woosnam (two), Jack Nicklaus, Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo (one) among the winners.

Ken Schofield, the secretary of the PGA European Tour, welcomed the arrival of Toyota and dismissed speculation of the circuit in general becoming more corporate.

He said: "I accept that our efforts have got to be redoubled to sustain what we've set out to do. The overall climate felt by the public is one of uncertainty. The Gulf has exacerbated that but my view is it will only slightly stall the dramatic advancement we have had."

The El Bosque Tournament, so far, has been played in Valencia in February, fell victim to the recession last week but it would appear that the AGF Open in France from April 4 to 7 is likely to be the only other case.

The Desert Classic in Dubai which is set to start the new season on February 7 is clearly under review although it could fill the AGF date should the case arise.

Boone too powerful

WILLIE Boone, the former world number one basketball player, beat Sam Stribak in straight games to take the US amateur racket championship in Boston (Stribak Jones writes).

Sambrook failed to cope with Boone's power and aggression and Willie's defence was based on good tactical points but never showed the determination or weight of shot to extend the favourite. Boone also partnered Ed Ullmann to the doubles title, beating William Bristowe and Willie.

REAL TENNIS: Lachlan Deuchar, the world No. 1, of Australia, won the US Open in Boston, beating Julian Snow, of Britain, in three sets.

But Cash has pulled out of the Australian Davis Cup team to play Belgium in Perth at the end of the month, saying he wants to improve his ranking at the ATP tour and to make a comeback for the McInnes, former of the Armenian Relief Appeal.

SKIING: Jilly Curry, the British freestyle skier, won a bronze medal in the combined section at Blackcomb in British Columbia, beating Julia Stiles, also of Britain, finished fifth in the ballet.

HOCKEY: England will play Ireland in two women's training internationals at Lilleshaun next

[illegible]

(Wales) bt F Chen and E Ho (HK), 3-1; M Bennett and S Dick (Wales) bt D Reynolds and J Gray (Eng), 3-0; J Wattana (Thai) and S

[illegible]

RUGBY UNION

TIPPEX COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Norfolk Under-21 0, Essex Under-21 17; RAF Under-21 10, Buckinghamshire Under-21 38; Norfolk Colts 0, Essex Colts 33.

- SWIMMING 30
- RACING 31
- CRICKET 32

THE TIMES

SPORT

Bates gives Becker a straightforward start

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
MELBOURNE

BORIS Becker has an inviting path through the Australian Open and, with due respect to Jeremy Bates, only a minor hurdle was removed from it in the first round yesterday.

With Pete Sampras, of the United States, gone and the three of the top four seeds in the opposite half of the draw, Becker will never get a better chance of improving his indifferent record at the Australian Open, and he reached the second round with a rumbustious 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 victory over the British No. 1.

To add to the West German's good fortune, Marc Rosset, the No. 15 seed and a dangerous customer who could have met Becker in the fourth round, had one of his periodic brainstorms against the unfancied Lars Wahlgren, of Sweden, and lost in five sets. Becker will now not have to play anyone ranked better than 45 before the quarter-finals, which is just the gentle sort of introduction he needed after a less than emphatic start to his season.

The German has never ventured beyond the quarter-finals in the Australian Open and his lengthy preparation reflected his determination to do so this time. He has spent Christmas and New Year in Australia in an effort to acclimatise his fair skin to the ferocious heat and improve his suspect stamina.

In fact, it was almost too long. There were strong rumours, confirmed in word by Becker himself yesterday and in deed by his lacklustre performances leading

up to the Open, that he was getting stale. He changed his hotel four times during his two weeks in Adelaide, possibly a reflection of the standard of hospitality in the "city of churches", but more likely the sign of a restless young man.

"If you had asked me two days ago how long I had been here, I would have said 'too long', but I feel much better now," he said. "I just hope the temperature doesn't go beyond 25 degrees."

The scoreline apart, Bates, ranked No. 142, and Becker, ranked No. 2, began the match as equals in one other way. Neither had won a match this year. There was rarely any doubt that the German No. 1 would break his duck quicker than the British, but if the latter can summon the same level of aggression and skill for the rest of the year as he did for three sets on the centre court at Flinders Park, he should not have to wait long.

"He didn't play like a man ranked 142, that's for sure," Becker said. "But I played better than I thought I would." That might have been because Bates's enjoyment of the occasion was so infectious that it made Becker relax, or it might have been because, apart from losing his opening service game, the second seed was always in control.

Either way, the jollity of the proceedings spread to the crowd and, by the end, some Becker supporters and a small but raucous group of Bates's were exchanging good-natured football-style chants across the centre court.

"I don't think I've ever had such good support anywhere, certainly not in Davis

Cup," Bates said. "It was more like the World Cup." It was. Germany won and their leading player now plays the Czech, Marian Vajda, which might be a little more serious.

Relaxation has been the key to Jo Durie's best form. For a set against the Australian, Tracy Morton, Durie played confident and aggressive tennis, as indeed she should have done against a modest performer ranked 220. Yet she would not be half as charming if her matches were straightforward. Inexplicably, the jitters started, and, having lost the second set, Durie went 4-3 and a break down in the third before recovering her touch to win 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.

"I started trying to play as I had last summer and I couldn't get it into my thick head that I just had to keep working hard, that it wasn't a matter of playing pretty tennis, just winning," she said.

Monique Javer had a less complicated 6-2, 6-2 win over the young American, Audra Keller, but Andrew Castle, who had fought admirably through three rounds of qualifying, lost to the tough Spanish left-hander, Francisco Claver. Castle took the first set on a tie-break, but was disconcerted by a slight twist of his ankle at the end of the set and won just five more games thereafter.

In the women's singles, Steffi Graf, the defending champion, and Gabriela Sabatini, the US Open champion, made untroubled passages to the second round. "I am hitting the ball better than I did at this time last year," Graf said.

Results, page 33



Keeping her eye on the ball: Graf drives a high backhand during her successful start in the Australian Open

Derby may switch to a Saturday from 1993

By RICHARD EVANS

THE Derby, the world's most famous flat race, is likely to be run on a Saturday, rather than on a Wednesday, from 1993. Epsom's prestige classic was last staged on a Saturday in 1953, days after the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, when Pinza, ridden by Gordon Richards, beat Aureole, owned by the new Queen.

The proposed switch from Wednesday was announced yesterday by United Racecourses, which runs Epsom, hours after the Jockey Club approved a yearling entry system for the race which is aimed at boosting the value of the Derby to £1 million. Meanwhile, in a deal worth £1.5 million, Ever Ready announced it would continue to sponsor the classic until at least 1994.

United Racecourses is likely to make an application to change the day of the Derby later this year. It will be considered by the Jockey Club's race planning committee, but all the indications are that there will be no objection.

Derby proposals, page 31

Ferguson promises an exhaustive study of French cup opponents

By IAN ROSS

IF MANCHESTER United's attempt to win the European Cup Winners' Cup this season ends in failure, it will not be through lack of planning.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, yesterday outlined the exhaustive, and costly, preparations he will undertake in readiness for the quarter-final tie against Montpellier, of France, in March.

On Sunday, Ferguson flew to Paris to see United's opponents beaten 2-0 by Paris Saint-Germain in a league match. Although Ferguson is unsure when he will next have the opportunity to run the rule over Montpellier, he said that a United representative would attend every one of the club's fixtures between now and the quarter-final first leg tie at Old Trafford on March 6.

"Someone will be going out to watch them this weekend when they have a home game against St Etienne," Ferguson said. "We shall be having them watched at every opportunity. This is the sort of thing we did while I was in charge at Aberdeen.

"It is difficult to do this sort of thing in the competition's earlier rounds because there is so little time between the draw and the actual matches. However, when you reach the quarter-final stage there is the necessary time available. Montpellier themselves will be undertaking a similar sort of operation, in fact, they had eight people in attendance at Old Trafford on Saturday for our game against Sunderland.

Despite Montpellier's weekend defeat, Ferguson said: "They have some very quick players and the team as a whole has a nice touch." Ferguson also admitted that he had discussed Montpellier's qualities with Franz Beckenbauer, the former manager of the West German national team and now technical manager at Marseilles, the French first division leaders.

Ferguson's immediate concern is tomorrow night's Rumbelows Cup quarter-final tie against Southampton at The Dell.

"There is a very big incentive for us to do well. We know it will be a hard game," he said. "At the moment we are a million miles away from Wembley but I would fancy our chances against anyone in the semi-final over two legs."

Ferguson's main concern is the fitness of Ince (groin strain) and Webb (calf strain), who were both injured at the weekend.

● Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, yesterday completed the signing of Jamie Redknapp, the 17-year-old Bournemouth midfielder, for £350,000.

● Toralf Arudt, aged 24, the leading scorer in the East German second division last season, is having a trial with Ipswich. He is expected to make his second appearance for Ipswich reserves at Portsmouth tomorrow night.

● Paul Tait, the Birmingham City forward, will miss the rest of the season. Tait, aged 19, broke a leg and damaged knee ligaments during Saturday's league match at Leyton Orient.

Courtney asked to explain remarks

By DENNIS SIGNY

GEORGE Courtney, the only English referee to officiate during last year's World Cup finals, has caused concern at the Football Association about remarks attributed to him after his decision to caution a player for ungentlemanly conduct during last Wednesday's FA Cup third-round replay between Leeds United and Barnsley at Elland Road.

Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, said yesterday that concern had been expressed at Courtney's interpretation of the rule when he cautioned John McClelland for tripping an opponent just outside the penalty area and then reportedly saying: "The FIFA directive on professional fouls did not enter my head. I did not consider the incident to be serious foul play. If I had thought it was serious he would have gone off."

Kelly said he would be asked for his observations "at a time when everyone is calling for consistency".

A second official, Alf Buxsh, is to be asked if he might have cautioned the wrong player during the Tottenham Hotspur-Arsenal match at White Hart Lane on Saturday. Arsenal said that Waterburn had been shown a yellow card rather than Limpar.

The FA agreed yesterday that this season's FA Cup semi-finals be played on the same Sunday for live, consecutive screening on television.

Ken Bates, the chairman of Chelsea and member of the Football League management committee said yesterday his club would not be appealing against the £105,000 fine imposed by the League last week. Bates missed yesterday's meeting of the FA Council.

Bill Fox, of the League, expects him to attend the management committee meeting on Friday. It is thought that Bates will be asked to explain his criticism of the committee and his club's punishment.

Ireland give Saunders captaincy on his debut

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ROB Saunders, the scrum half who joined London Irish at the beginning of this season, will make his international rugby union debut as captain of Ireland when they play France in Dublin on February 2 - Ireland's first match in this season's five nations' championship, which begins this weekend when Wales play England in Cardiff and France meet Scotland in Paris.

Saunders, aged 22 who works in the marketing office of M F Kent, a firm of electrical and mechanical engineering contractors in Sunbury, was one of five newcomers in the team announced yesterday. "I'm absolutely elated," he said. "It will take a day or two to sink in."

"I have not been sleeping very well these past few nights, thinking about the team. I thought I might have been in with a shout for the cap but really it is quite unbelievable. Winning my first cap and being appointed captain is beyond my wildest dreams."

Saunders, born in Nottingham but brought up and educated in Belfast, succeeds Donal Lenihan, the experienced lock appointed to lead Ireland throughout this season but forced by a neck injury to withdraw. He will be the

youngest captain in the championship but receives the responsibility at the same age as did Will Carling when appointed captain of England in November 1988.

His record includes the captaincy of Ulster and Irish Schools, Queen's University, Belfast, Irish Universities and Ireland under-21. "I would not say it was an easy thing to do but I work at it," he said. "I enjoy doing it. I don't imagine anyone is expecting me to wave a magic wand but there was a good feeling among the players in the B international [against Scotland] and in the Algarve in training."

"Ireland are not going to be world beaters in two or three games. It will be a steady

process. As far as I am concerned, I'm in for the French game and after that the selectors have to pick a team to play the English. You can be flavour of the month one day and nowhere the next, but the reciprocal of that is true too, and that's what has happened with me."

Saunders is the first Irishman to be made captain on his debut for 35 years; the last player to do so was Jim Ritchie, also of London Irish, a flanker who led Ireland against France in 1956 when the French won 14-8.

● Scotland and Wales are to play each other at veterans level two weeks on Friday at Stewart's-Melville, the day before the full international at Murrayfield. Both countries will be fielding past international players, who include Phil Bennet and J. P. R. Williams, for Wales, and David Leslie in the Scotland line-up.

Wales are also expected to play the famed Pontypool front row of Carlie Faulkner, Bobby Windsor and Graham Price. Scotland's backs include Keith Robertson, Jim Renwick, Roger Baird and Andrew Ker, all of whom have played first team rugby this season.



Saunders: "elated"

Irish selection, page 32

Butcher recalls Speedie amid fresh Villa links

By CHRIS MOORE

DAVID Speedie returns to the Coventry City side for tomorrow's Rumbelows Cup football quarter-final against Sheffield Wednesday amid renewed speculation linking him with a move to Aston Villa.

Jozef Venglos, the Villa manager, is known to be stepping up his search for a ball-winning midfielder player, though he declined last night to confirm an interest in Speedie.

The Scottish international was first linked with Villa last October when he looked certain to be leaving Highfield Road after an incident with a Coventry vice-president. Villa, however, are unlikely to

meet Coventry's £1 million valuation for a player who will be 31 next month.

Terry Butcher, the Coventry player-manager, who will also be back in his team tomorrow, rebuffed suggestions he was under pressure to sell Speedie.

"I want to nail that one once and for all," Butcher said. "If I do sell him it will be my decision and mine alone."

West Bromwich Albion's board of directors will ignore demands from the club's Shareholders' Association to replace Brian Talbot until after an emergency general meeting which must be held within the next three weeks.

IOC members face suspension for malpractice

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN TORONTO

A SMALL minority of members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) could be in danger of suspension if host candidate cities for the 1996 Olympic Games, awarded last year to Atlanta, decide to give details of financial malpractice during the four-year bidding campaign before the vote being taken in Tokyo.

Contrary to public perception, the manipulation of the voting process is more abused by this minority of IOC members than it is by candidate cities with their alleged gifts. The IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, is anxious to protect the credibility of the members, and investigations are under way.

Malpractice came to light at last week's debriefing meeting in Lausanne of the candidates for 1996. Although the controversy over Atlanta's election has subsided, a degree of bitterness remains among

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some defeated candidates, having observed the dishonourable actions of a few of the voters.

The names of four IOC members who made excessive demands on travel expenses for visiting Athens have been published in Greek newspapers. The rejection of Athens as traditional host for the centenary Games has humiliated the Greeks, and their two IOC members failed to appear at last week's debriefing.

Both Melbourne and Toronto are believed to be considering giving the executive board details of individual demands made upon them. Manchester, during their interview with the board, drew attention to double-ticketing, by which members received cash reimbursement from two candidates for a single round trip.

Richard Pound, a Montreal lawyer and senior IOC vice-president, said yesterday: "It was a good

meeting, and I'm glad we had it." Those present on the IOC panel last week, besides Samaranch and Pound, included Keba M'baye, of Senegal, second vice-president, and Marc Hodler, of Switzerland, who drew up the regulations for reducing the costs of the bidding procedure for 1996.

Two candidate cities had instances of IOC members claiming to have had jewellery, belonging to their wives, stolen during their visit. When, in one instance, the candidate's committee chairman promptly went to the police, the member was angry and embarrassed.

Ironically, the root of the problem is that, with the democratisation of the membership, there is an increasing number of members who cannot afford their high-profile position. Twenty years ago, there was still criticism of the exclusiveness of the self-elected IOC, with its princes, dukes and generals; but at least they paid all their own expenses. Members without substantial means were

supported by their National Olympic Committee.

With the broadening of the membership to include more ordinary representatives - some with modest occupations - some cannot afford the regular, non-reimbursable entertainment and other costs that are now commonplace. Nor, in some cases, can the NOCs afford to subsidise them. Hence the temptation for malpractice.

Toronto, who consider it absurd, with hindsight, that they should have paid \$750,000 for their bid book, unread by the majority of members, were the only candidate to present the IOC last week with a written post-mortem. Their recommendations included:

- A maximum expenditure of \$5 million per candidate (Melbourne are believed to have spent three times this);
- A reduced 50-page bid book;
- A single video of six minutes maximum;

- The retention of the secret ballot to protect members from recriminations following the decision;
- The Evaluation Commission, which inspects each city, to reduce the numbers to four 18 months before the vote is taken, and for the presidents of international sports federations to be included in the voting process with the IOC members then to reduce the candidates to two - the final decision between the two to be made exclusively by the IOC;

- A rotational system for candidates to simplify the process between Europe/Africa, Americas north and south, and Asia/Oceania;
- No guests to travel with visiting IOC members;
- For travel expenses to be paid out of a central pool into which all candidates would equally contribute, to avoid geographical advantage in travel facilities, and for the banning of all gifts.

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